

MEN'S BASKETBALL  
Conference Preview

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL  
Emily Cady

HOMETOWN HUSKER  
Tanner Lubach

THE ORIGINAL ZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

# HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

## FIGHTING TO THE END

Huskers never quit  
in 45-42 loss to Trojans  
at 2014 Holiday Bowl



February 2015  
VOLUME 35 | NO. 2 |  
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# HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

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**The next Huskers Illustrated edition, featuring the Class of 2015 Recruits will mail on February 9.**

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## TWO-MINUTE DRILL

BY **LANNY HOLSTEIN, MICHAEL BRUNTZ & DARREN IVY**

New head football coach Mike Riley has put together the majority of his new staff and was in San Diego to watch his future team take on the Trojans.

2014 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE	DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
	AUG. 30	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 55-7
	SEPT. 6	MCNEESE STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00 A.M.	W, 31-24
	SEPT. 13	@FRESNO STATE	FRESNO, CALIF.	9:30P.M.	W, 55-19
	SEPT. 20	MIAMI	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7:00 P.M.	W, 41-31
	SEPT. 27	ILLINOIS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	8:00P.M.	W, 45-14
	OCT. 4	@MICHIGAN STATE	EAST LANSING, MICH.	7:00P.M.	L, 27-22
	OCT. 18	@NORTHWESTERN	EVANSTON, ILL.	6:30P.M.	W, 38-17
	OCT. 25	RUTGERS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00 A.M.	W, 42-24
	NOV. 1	PURDUE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 35-14
	NOV. 15	@WISCONSIN	MADISON, WIS.	2:30P.M.	L, 59-24
	NOV. 22	MINNESOTA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00 A.M.	L, 28-24
	NOV. 28	@IOWA	IOWA CITY, IA	11:00 A.M.	W, 37-34 OT
	DEC. 27	USC - HOLIDAY BOWL	SAN DIEGO, CALIF.	7:00 P.M.	L, 45-42
	ALL GAMES ARE CST				



## ON THE COVER

Nebraska senior wide receiver Kenny Bell hauls in an 18-yard touchdown catch from Tommy Armstrong Jr. in the first quarter of the Holiday Bowl. Bell finished the season as Nebraska's leading receiver with 47 catches for 788 yards. Bell became the first player in NU's 125-year history to lead the team in receiving in four consecutive seasons. He leaves NU as the all-time receptions and receiving yards leader.

PHOTO BY TONY KIEHN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

## NU LOSES IN LAST HURRAH FOR STAFF, SENIOR PLAYERS HUSKERS CAN'T WRITE FAIRY TALE ENDING AS FOURTH DOWN PLAY, HAIL MARY FALL SHORT

THE PERFECT STORYBOOK ENDING FOR THE NEBRASKA FOOTBALL TEAM WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR TOMMY ARMSTRONG'S DESPERATION HAIL MARY PASS TO END UP IN THE ARMS OF SENIOR KENNY BELL TO GIVE NU A REMARKABLE COME-FROM-BEHIND VICTORY IN THE AMERICAN COLLEGE HOLIDAY BOWL ON DEC. 27.

The signs were pointing to a miracle finish as the Big 12 officiating crew had reversed its call that the game had ended on Bell's catch and put one second back on the clock much like the Texas finish that still haunts Pelini and NU fans from the 2009 Big 12 title game.

Sixty yards, a reachable distance with Armstrong's arm strength, and a bit of luck was all that stood between the Huskers and one last exclamation point for this group of 14 seniors and the remaining assistant coaches who were coaching their final game at Nebraska.

Like this season and really the past seven years under Bo Pelini, the story didn't end the way the Huskers would have liked as Armstrong's pass was batted out of bounds as time expired leaving NU on the short end of a 45-42 defeat to USC and finishing with four losses for the seventh-straight season.

It was a gutsy performance by Nebraska, which came in as big underdog against the No. 24 Trojans who were basically playing a home game in San Diego.

NU players made it clear before the game that this game was for Pelini, who was fired on Dec. 4, and nearly all the assistants who also likely are out after the bowl. They left the front seat of the bus empty in a symbolic gesture for where their departed coach normally sat.

Bell wrote Pelini on his armbands and Jake Cotton had BO on his helmet in place



of his No. 68.

Despite all the best efforts of the team all year, including senior running back Ameer Abdullah, who chose to return for his senior season instead of going pro, 2014 will be a story about what could have been instead of what was actually accomplished.

The Huskers dropped three of their final four games after a promising 7-0 start.

When things went south at Wisconsin, it made for a tumultuous final two weeks of the season.

Then came the firing of Pelini and quick hire and arrival in Lincoln of Mike Riley and the last three weeks of new and current coaches sharing space in an awkward transition.

Nebraska players, coaches and families finally allowed their emotions to outwardly show after the Huskers played their hearts out in the Holiday Bowl.

With about two minutes remaining on the Qualcomm Stadium clock and the Huskers trailing by three, Interim head coach Barney Cotton took a moment to hug senior captain Ameer Abdullah.

The moment was caught by ESPN cameras and what was said will likely be something the two share forever.

In the locker room Cotton evidently lost it with his emotions telling all the players how proud he was of them.

It wasn't a storybook ending but it will be the ending these players and coaches will be able to look back on when all the chaos settles.

"We've been through a lot, but we never quit," said Jake Cotton, his voice wavering. "We showed we're not a group that quits. A Bo Pelini team doesn't quit. A Cotton team doesn't quit. Garrison, Kaz, Fish, Coach Brown, all of the guys, Coach Els, everyone throughout the whole stadium, Coach Dobson. We don't quit."



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Husker fans Makayla and Alex Miroshnichenko came from Foothill Ranch, California. Alex Perez and Ethan Weiss of Garden Grove, California take a break from playing catch before the Holiday Bowl for a photograph. JT and Lindsey Vickery of Temecula, California stop for a photo before the game. From left; Kamoni Cooper Jr., J.R. Pugsley and Eric Bridges came all the way from Phoenix, Arizona to San Diego to cheer on the Huskers in the Holiday Bowl. Hannah and her dad Jeff Frazey came from Glendale, Arizona for the game, but Jeff is a native of Waltham.





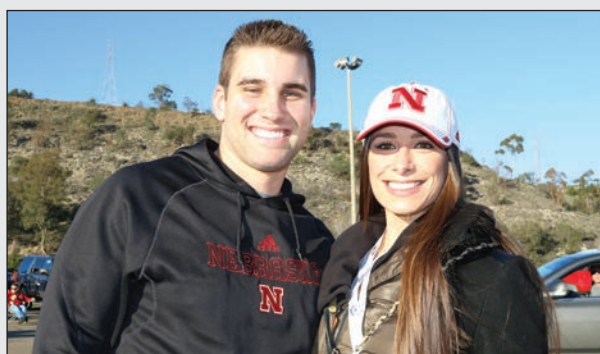
# Behind the N

## Holiday includes bowl trip for NU fans

PHOTOS BY TONY KIEHN



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Omaha native Greg Peters and Chelsea Patron of Palm Springs, California attended the game. Mario Aparicio and Steven Wheelock from El Monte, California were ready to get loud for Big Red before the Holiday Bowl. Taylor Horner, Katie Horner, Kathleen Gonzales and Holly Bergstrom, all of Orange County, California came to cheer on NU against the Trojans. Former Husker quarterback Zac Lee and Jeannie Lechich, both from San Francisco, show their Husker pride. Mike Caha of Temecula California and Chuck Stone of Johnson Lake, Nebraska enjoyed the warm December weather.







Tommy Armstrong Jr. swings out what appeared to be a touchdown pass to offensive lineman Alex Lewis, but it was ruled a forward pass to an ineligible receiver.

## Armstrong sets NU bowl records in loss

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY TONY KIEHN

**I**f Tommy Armstrong Jr.'s performance in the National University Holiday Bowl was an audition, the redshirt sophomore certainly gave Nebraska's incoming coaching staff plenty to consider following the Cornhuskers' 45-42 loss to No. 24-ranked Southern California.

Armstrong completed 32-of-51 pass attempts for 381 yards and three touchdowns with one interception, setting Nebraska bowl-game records for pass attempts, completions, passing yards, TDs and total offense (422 yards).

Despite struggling with accuracy at times – Trojans' defenders had opportunities to record at least three additional interceptions – Armstrong was productive, surpassing his previous career-high passing total by 108 yards.

"Tommy competed his rear end off," said Barney Cotton, Nebraska's interim head coach for the Holiday Bowl. "It wasn't always pretty at times. What I'm most proud of Tommy, in the second quarter he tried to do a little too much, he settled down the second half and came out the second half and played a completely new ballgame."

Armstrong was 18-of-24 through the air for 221 yards and a TD after the intermission.

Although Nebraska ultimately came up short on the scoreboard, Armstrong's efforts in the final 30 minutes surely had to impress new Huskers' head coach Mike Riley, who was watching from the stands.

Asked if he thought his performance was an audition of sorts, Armstrong said,

"Yes, kind of."

"I've never been in this situation," said Armstrong, who is 16-5 as a starter at Nebraska. "I don't know what to expect, but I'm just going to do what I've been doing – try to be the best leader that I can and welcome in all my coaches."

In the spring, Armstrong figures to have to compete for the starting quarterback job all over again.

Back-up Ryker Fyfe and No. 3 signal-caller Johnny Stanton, no doubt, will also be looking to take advantage of a clean slate that comes with a new coaching staff arriving in Lincoln.

"We just have to work hard," Armstrong said. "At the end of the day, it's (the coaches') decision what they want to do throughout the whole year next year. We just need to prepare the right way."



# Team plays for Bo, Coach Barney Cotton



Brothers Jake and Sam Cotton hug after NU's 45-42 loss. It was the final game together for the senior and sophomore and their father, Barney, who is heading to UNLV.

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTOS BY TONY KIEHN

Although Bo Pelini wasn't with Nebraska during its 45-42 loss to Southern California in the National University Holiday Bowl in San Diego, it was obvious that the former Cornhuskers' head coach wasn't forgotten.

Pelini, who was 67-27 in seven seasons at NU, was fired on Nov. 30 – two days after Nebraska completed a 9-3 regular season with a 37-34 come-from-behind overtime victory at Iowa. Barney Cotton served as interim head coach for the Huskers during their bowl game.

The game-day remembrances of Pelini began on the ride to Qualcomm Stadium. The first seat of the first Nebraska team bus was left empty.

Huskers' senior wide receiver Kenny Bell was perhaps one of the most visible with his tributes to Pelini. He had "PELINI" written in all-black on white bands covering his forearms. Prior to the Holiday Bowl, Bell tweeted: "For the boss man gentlemen. Let's go to work."

"I wasn't trying to make a statement,"

Bell told reporters in a post-game interview. "I don't think anybody on this football team was trying to make a statement towards anybody.

"I think we were trying to communicate our love and affection and appreciate



Barney Cotton and Jake Cotton embrace after their final game together.

for our head man. That's my head coach."

Nebraska senior I-back Ameer Abdullah also posted on Twitter prior to kickoff, tweeting: "#BoKnows put on one time for the bossman!"

"Bo means the world to me, man. He changed my life," Abdullah said. "Nebraska was the only school that legitimately offered me (a scholarship) as a running back coming out of high school – the only team that gave me a chance – and it's all because of coach Bo.

"Coach Bo saw something in me that a lot of coaches didn't."

Nebraska offensive lineman Jake Cot-

ton joined several of his teammates in honoring Pelini.

The decals on the back of Cotton's helmet displayed "BO" where a "68" to match his jersey number would have normally appeared.

The younger Cotton credited Pelini and other members of Nebraska's coaching staff for instilling the resiliency that helped the Huskers rally from a 45-27 third-quarter deficit to make it a three-point game with 6:52 to play.

"I think the last four weeks shows that we're not a group that quits," Cotton said. "A Bo Pelini team doesn't quit."



# Huskers come up short against Trojans

## Nebraska battles to final seconds before losing 45-42 to USC

STORY BY LANNY HOLSTEIN | PHOTO BY TONY KIEHN

**T**he Nebraska football team didn't get exactly the result it wanted against USC in the National University Holiday Bowl, but the team did come out of the game with its head held high.

The Huskers battled the Trojans to a 45-42 loss in a game that looked like it could have slipped away from the team in white more than a few times. Senior offensive guard Jake Cotton said afterward that the game summed up the senior class's Nebraska career aptly.

"It could have gotten out of hand, and at times it might have seemed like it did, but it was fun tonight," he said. "It was kind of a microcosm of what the last five years have been like. It wasn't always pretty, but it's been gritty, and we've done it together."

The Huskers were led by Cotton's father, Barney, who took over as interim head coach after Bo Pelini was fired following the Iowa game. For the players, the past month was a whirlwind of emotion.

"We've been through a lot, but you know, we never quit," the younger Sam Cotton said. "I think the last four weeks shows that we're not a group that quits. A Bo Pelini team doesn't quit, and a coach Cotton team doesn't quit... Sometimes it doesn't go our way, and tonight was one of those days, but our team doesn't quit."

Nebraska fell behind 45-27 with just over two minutes to go in the third quarter, but the team came roaring back on the arm of quarterback Tommy Armstrong. The sophomore signal caller uncorked a career-high 51 passes in what was a personal-best game for him all around.

Armstrong ended the night 32-51 for 381 yards and three touchdowns.

He did throw an interception and could have had a few more had USC defenders held onto the ball, but his performance impressed his teammates.

"He's the toughest kid I ever met. He's a warrior," running back Ameer Abdullah said. "He stands in the pocket, he takes hits and he runs the ball. The offense is on his shoulders every play, so he's the strongest kid I ever met, and I'm looking forward to seeing him play in the future."

Armstrong's performance was part of an

Josh Banderas led the Huskers with 14 tackles.



offense that really got untracked after coordinator Tim Beck was allowed to do his thing uninhibited by the head coach. Beck coached the game from the sideline for the first time in his coordinating career because he wanted to get Nebraska in and out of plays as quickly as he could and it resulted in a season-high 94 plays being run.

"When you play fast, you get a guy out of a gap, you get a guy that doesn't go with a guy in motion, you get a guy who blows coverage and you get a big play," he said. "That's kind of what happened."

Beck also used a lot of his trademark "option" plays to get his unit going. On the day, Nebraska went for 525 yards and 28 first downs.

"We ran a lot of run-pass options," Beck said. "Even though we threw 55, probably 20 of those could easily have been runs, depending on how they were playing us."

In the end, it came down to a drive that stalled out on the USC 31-yard line without allowing Drew Brown an opportunity at a game-tying field goal attempt, and a last second Hail Mary attempt that was knocked away.

The Huskers didn't get the win they so desperately wanted to send their fired coach out on, but they were still proud of their performance.

"It was a ride, man. The best roller coaster I've ever been on," cornerback Josh Mitchell said. "The best college experience I've ever had."



## SUMMARY

### SCORING

December 27, 2014  
Qualcomm Stadium, San Diego, California  
Attendance: 55,789

	1	2	3	4	F
USC	10	14	21	0	45
NEBRASKA	17	0	17	8	42

	USC	NEB
Q1 11:05 NEB - Drew Brown 34 yd field goal 5-29 1:47	0	3
10:54 USC - Jackson, Adoree 98 yd kickoff return (Heidari, Andre kick)	7	3
8:23 NEB - Bell, Kenny 18 yd pass from Armstrong, Tommy (Brown, Drew kick) 6-53 2:31	7	10
6:05 USC - Andrew Heidari 42 yd field goal 8-42 2:18	10	10
1:25 NEB - Pierson-El, De'Mornay 9 yd pass from Armstrong, Tommy (Brown, Drew kick) 6-39 2:42	10	17
Q2 13:11 USC - Agholor, Nelson 17 yd pass from Kessler, Cody (Heidari, Andre kick) 10-75 3:14	17	17
06:39 USC - Allen, Javorius 2 yd run (Heidari, Andre kick) 12-80 3:32	24	17
Q3 12:01 USC - Jackson, Adoree 71 yd pass from Kessler, Cody (Heidari, Andre kick) 1-71 0:12	31	17
9:41 NEB - Abdullah, Ameer 20 yd run (Brown, Drew kick) 7-73 2:28	31	24
8:06 USC - Allen, Javorius 44 yd run (Heidari, Andre kick) 5-68 1:35	38	24
11:05 NEB - Drew Brown 24 yd field goal 6-9 3:18	38	27
2:03 USC - Dixon, Bryce 20 yd pass from Kessler, Cody (Heidari, Andre kick) 2-65 0:25	45	27
0:25 NEB - Westerkamp, Jordan 65 yd pass from Armstrong, Tommy (Brown, Drew kick) 4-79 1:35	45	34
Q4 6:52 NEB - Armstrong, Tommy 15 yd run (Bell, Kenny 2 pt pass from Armstrong) 9-77 2:51	45	42

## TEAM STATS

	NEBRASKA	USC
FIRST DOWNS	28	22
Rushing	9	9
Passing	16	13
Penalty	3	0
NET YARDS RUSHING	144	194
Rushing Attempts	43	34
Average Per Rush	3.3	5.7
Rushing Touchdowns	2	2
Yards Gained Rushing	171	210
Yards Lost Rushing	27	16
NET YARDS PASSING	381	321
Completions-Attempts-Int.	32-51-1	23-39-1
Average Per Attempt	7.5	8.2
Average Per Completion	11.9	14.0
Passing Touchdowns	3	3
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	525	515
Total offense plays	94	73
Average Gain Per Play	5.6	7.1
Fumbles: Number-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	7-45	12-97
PUNTS-YARDS	7-313	9-313
Average Yards Per Punt	44.7	34.8
Net Yards Per Punt	41.0	32.1
Inside 20	4	1
50+ Yards	2	1
Touchbacks	1	0
Fair catch	1	2
KICKOFFS-YARDS	8-419	8-411
Average Yards Per Kickoff	52.4	51.4
Net Yards Per Kickoff	26.0	27.5
Touchbacks	0	0
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	2-24-0	1-6-0
Average Per Return	12.0	6.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	8-191-0	8-211-1
Average Per Return	23.9	26.4
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-0-0	1-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Possession Time	34:26	25:34
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 20	3 of 14
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 3	1 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	6-7	3-3

## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

### USC

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Allen, Javorius	26	152	0	152	2	44	5.8
Davis, Justin	4	45	0	45	0	28	11.2
Agholor, Nelson	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.0
Kessler, Cody	3	12	15	-3	0	12	-1.0
Totals	43	134	38	96	0	16	2.2

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Kessler, Cody	23-39-1	321	3	71	2
Totals	21-39-1	217	2	48	4

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Agholor, Nelson	7	90	1	18
Dixon, Bryce	4	44	1	20
Jackson, Adoree	3	73	1	71
Smith, JuJu	3	66	0	45
Telfer, Randall	2	18	0	19
Darres Rogers	2	10	0	12
Allen, Javorius	1	16	0	16
Farmer, George	1	4	0	4
Totals	23	321	3	71

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Albarado, Kris	7	281	40.1	53	1	0
Team	2	32	16.0	32	0	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	PUNTS	KICKOFFS	INTERCEPTIONS
Agholor, Nelson	1	6	6	0	0	0
Jackson, Adoree	0	0	0	3	130	98
Smith, JuJu	0	0	0	5	81	22
Cravens, Su'a	0	0	0	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Heidari, Andre	1st	6:05	38 yds	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
6 Shaw, Josh	8	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
94 Williams, Le.	6	3	9	1-10	1-10	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 Pullard, Hay.	3	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 Plattenburg, J.	7	0	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Jackson, Ador.	7	0	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 Cravens, Su'a	5	1	6	-	1-1	-	-	1	1	-	-
58 Tavai, J.R.	4	2	6	-	2-5	-	-	-	-	-	-
27 Bowman, J.R.	3	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
56 Sarao, Anth.	4	0	4	1-7	1-7	-	-	-	-	-	-
47 Felix, Scott	3	0	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9 Smith, JuJu	3	0	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19 Hutchings, M.	3	0	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
98 Temple, Cody	2	0	2	1-6	1-6	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 Seymour, Ke.	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
90 Pelon, Claude	1	1	2	-	2-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 Vainku, Soma	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22 McQuay III, L.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
52 Simmons, D.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
92 Smith, Zach	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Lockett, Jon.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2F Toland IV, J.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
83 Katrib, Geo.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
96 Glasgow, Ryan	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 Agholor, N.	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

## TEAM STATS CONT.

	NEBRASKA	USC
Touchdowns	4-7	3-3
Field goals	2-7	0-3
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-15	3-23
PAT Kicks	4-4	6-6
Field Goals	2-2	1-1

### NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Abdullah, Ameer	27	99	11	88	1	20	3.3
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	12	57	16	41	1	15	3.4
Newby, Terrell	4	15	0	15	0	8	3.8
Totals	43	171	27	144	2	20	3.3

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	32-51-1	381	3	65	2
Abdullah, Ameer	0-0-0	0	0	0	1
Totals	6-16-1	163	1	99	3

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Pierson-El, De'Mornay	8	102	1	21
Bell, Kenny	7	71	1	18
Abdullah, Ameer	6	61	0	33
Reilly, Brandon	4	36	0	12
Westerkamp, Jordan	3	81	1	65
Carter, Cethan	2	25	0	17
Newby, Terrell	2	5	0	3
Totals	6	163	2	99

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Foltz, Sam	7	313	44.7	64	4	1

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	PUNTS	KICKOFFS	INTERCEPTIONS
Pierson-El, DeMor.	1	7	7	2	33	20
Abdullah, Ameer	0	0	0	3	120	49
Mitchell, Josh	0	0	0	0	0	1
Janovich, Andy	0	0	0	3	38	17
Williams, Kieron	1	17	0	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Brown, Drew	1st	11:05	34 yds	Good
Brown, Drew	3rd	02:28	24 yds	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
52 Banderas, Jo.	7	7	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Cooper, Corey	7	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13 Anderson, Za.	3	5	8	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
98 Valentin, Vin.	2	4	6	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Davie, Daniel	4	1	5	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
7A Collins, Maliek	2	3	5	1-6	2-8	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 Williams, Au.	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 Gregory, Ran.	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28 Cockrell, Bye.	3	0	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 Gerry, Nathan	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
56 Weber, Paul	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 Mitchell, Josh	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
39 Nelson, Jor.	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1E Jones, Chris	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Allen, Taariq	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 Rose, Jonath.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 Felici, Joey	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
95 Gangwish, Ja.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
90 McMullen, Gr.	0	1	1	.5-5	1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-
92 Williams, Kev.	0	1	1	.5-4	1-4	-	-	-	-	-	-
2C Williams, Kie.	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-



**RUSHING OFFENSE:** Nebraska averaged less than four yards per carry – a number that has been a bit of a watershed mark in the Bo Pelini era. Ameer Abdullah ran for just 88 yards on 27 carries. Abdullah added a rushing touchdown, as did quarterback Tommy Armstrong, but the rushing game – particularly in the first half – didn't do enough to keep USC's defense honest. Even though Nebraska had a record day through the air, Nebraska is a team that has to dominate on the ground to win. – *Michael Bruntz*

C

**PASSING OFFENSE:** Tommy Armstrong set Nebraska bowl game records for pass attempts, completions, passing yards and total offense. The 381 passing yards were a career high for Armstrong bettering his 273 yards passing at Michigan State on Oct. 4, as he went 32 for 51 with three touchdowns and an interception and seven different Huskers caught passes, including Cethan Carter, who had two for 25 yards. Offensive coordinator Tim Beck wanted to air the ball out and play with tempo, and it's hard to argue with the results – 42 points and more than 90 plays on the game. Armstrong's performance through the air was a big part of that. – *Michael Bruntz*

A-

**RUSHING DEFENSE:** Late in the second quarter, USC began to find running lanes for Javorius Allen, especially on the right-hand side of the line. Allen finished with 26 carries for 152 yards and two touchdowns and was never dropped for a loss in the game. It was going to be a tall task for Nebraska in stopping the run because of Nebraska's limitations at the linebacker spot on Saturday. But the fact that Nebraska's defensive line wasn't winning the battle up front against USC's big offensive line sealed the deal for the Huskers. – *Michael Bruntz*

D+

**PASSING DEFENSE:** With Nebraska unable to consistently stop the run, USC found success through the air. Cody Kessler finished 23-for-39 for 321 yards, three touchdowns and a rare interception. That pick by Josh Mitchell kept the Huskers in the game, but Nebraska's secondary had few answers for USC's size and speed on the outside. One of the biggest plays of the game came in the third quarter when USC was able to isolate Adoree' Jackson on linebacker Austin Williams and Jackson took it to the house. – *Michael Bruntz*

D+

**KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:** There was a lot to like in what Nebraska did on special teams. Kieron Williams blocked two punts on the evening, and Ameer Abdullah provided a nice boost in the kickoff return game alongside DeMornay Pierson-El. Neither team wanted to give up much to the other in the return game, so squib kicks won the day in San Diego. One big dagger for USC came on Jackson's kick return for a touchdown that followed a Husker field goal and put USC ahead 7-3. – *Michael Bruntz*

B+

# Game Notes &

## GOING FOR IT

The Holiday Bowl came down to a couple of last second drives that fell short for the Huskers in San Diego.

The second of those drives ended on quarterback Tommy Armstrong's last second heave to the end zone, but the more frustrating of the two drives was the first. Down 45-42, Nebraska managed to move the ball into Trojan territory before facing a third-and-three from the 31.

Armstrong tried a quick pass to receiver De'Mornay Pierson-El, but the pass fell incomplete.

"It was just a run-pass option," Beck said of the play call. "The guy bailed on De'Mornay, so we gave him a little hitch, but De'Mornay went a little bit too far inside, and Tommy just missed him. They were playing off coverage, and we threw it all night."

On fourth down, interim head coach Barney Cotton elected to go for the conversion, bypassing a possible 48-yard field goal attempt that could have given Nebraska the lead.

"We were probably about three or four yards away from that, plus when it was third and three, we wanted to have a little bit more confidence in our guys," Cotton said. "We told them in the huddle that we had two to get it. Kicking a field goal at that point wasn't even discussed to our guys."

Instead of the field goal, Nebraska gave Pierson-El another chance to pick up the first down, this time on an end around. Running back Ameer Abdullah lead the way with a cut block, but Pierson-El ducked inside and was stuffed for no-gain.

"If you ask De'Mornay, he will tell you he should have just stayed outside. Ameer cut the guy down, and he cut inside. The guy who trailed De'Mornay man-to-man made the tackle."

## HURRYING UP

As lame-duck coaches without much consequence, the makeshift coaching staff Nebraska assembled for the bowl game was able to run a wide open game plan against USC. No coach took bigger advantage than offensive coordinator Tim Beck.

The much-maligned coach did things his way in the Holiday Bowl, and that meant a lot of passing and a lot of hurrying.

"We felt like it would be a four quarter game, and we knew that we would have to just keep plugging," he said. "We wanted to get a lot of plays in, try to wear them out and get some big plays on them here and there. For the most part, we just kind of ran out of time."

Interim coach Barney Cotton allowed Beck to fight fire with fire. Instead of trying to hold the ball and play keep away with the Trojan attack, the Huskers elected to ramp up the pace on their side of the ball as well.

"I liked that we played fast," Beck said. "We all re-

## Quoting NU interim head coach Barney Cotton on his post-game team meeting:

"My talk ended up being the team prayer. Basically a prayer of thanks for these guys and these coaches. It was a heck of a football game. My goodness ... both teams fought to the end. It was a 60-minute football game. That's what we prepared our guys for."





Jake Cotton (68) and Mike Moudy (74) look up at the replay to see what went wrong on a failed fourth-down play late in the game when De'Mornay Pierson-El was dropped for a loss on a fourth down run.



TONY KIEHN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

alized that they were a great offense, they were going to score some points, to win we knew that we needed to as well.”

Beck coached from the sideline in this game, a changeup from his normal perch in the coaches’ box. He said it was necessary.

“With the tempo we were doing, I needed to be down there,” Beck said. “When to run the tempo, when not to. There were some substitution issues the come up when you are running fast. It’s hard to have a third wheel, a guy in between, so I just wanted to do that.”

## ABDULLAH BACK TO FULL STRENGTH

It seems like a long time ago that Husker running back Ameer Abdullah was a Heisman Trophy candidate, but the star performer showed his old mettle once more in the Holiday Bowl.

Abdullah ran for 88 yards and a score as well as catching six passes for 61 more. The senior may have made his biggest impact though on special teams. He returned three kickoffs for 120 yards to set up his offense with short fields

all night.

“I think you guys could tell he was a lot more like his old self,” interim head coach Barney Cotton said. “He may not have had the 200 yard rushing game, but look what he did for us in the special teams game. He gritted out some yards that weren’t there in the second half to keep drives alive. Even in the passing game, he got some touches there. What a great competitor.”

Abdullah suffered a sprained MCL against Purdue and didn’t look to be 100 percent down the stretch. After playing USC, he said he was as healthy as he’s been in a long time in his final game.

The sad part of it all for Abdullah was ending a special career as a Husker.

The scene in the locker room following the game told it all.

“It was emotional, very emotional,” Abdullah said. “You can pretty much expect that because it’s the last time I will see a lot of these guys. I’m not going to be a Husker next year, and that’s weird for me. It’s an emotion that I’ve never felt.”

Offensive Coordinator Tim Beck was on the sidelines for the USC game for the first time in his career at NU.



TONY KIEHN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



# FINAL SCORE: USC 45, NEBRASKA 42



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: MALIEK COLLINS SACKS USC QUARTERBACK CODY KESSLER. SENIOR WIDE RECEIVER KENNY BELL SHOWS HIS SUPPORT FOR BO PELINI ON HIS ARMBANDS. KIERON WILLIAMS BLOCKS ONE OF TWO PUNTS. JOHNATHAN ROSE LAYS A HIT ON USC'S JUJU SMITH. AMEER ABDULLAH JUKES A TROJAN DEFENDER. BARNEY AND SAM COTTON HUG AFTER THE GAME. DANIEL DAVIE TACKLES DARREUS ROGERS. DE'MORNAY PIERSON-EL FIGHTS FOR A TOUCHDOWN. LINEMAN ALEX LEWIS RACES TO THE ENDZONE, ONLY TO HAVE HIS TOUCHDOWN CALLED BACK DUE TO A PENALTY.

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED PHOTOS BY TONY KIEHN

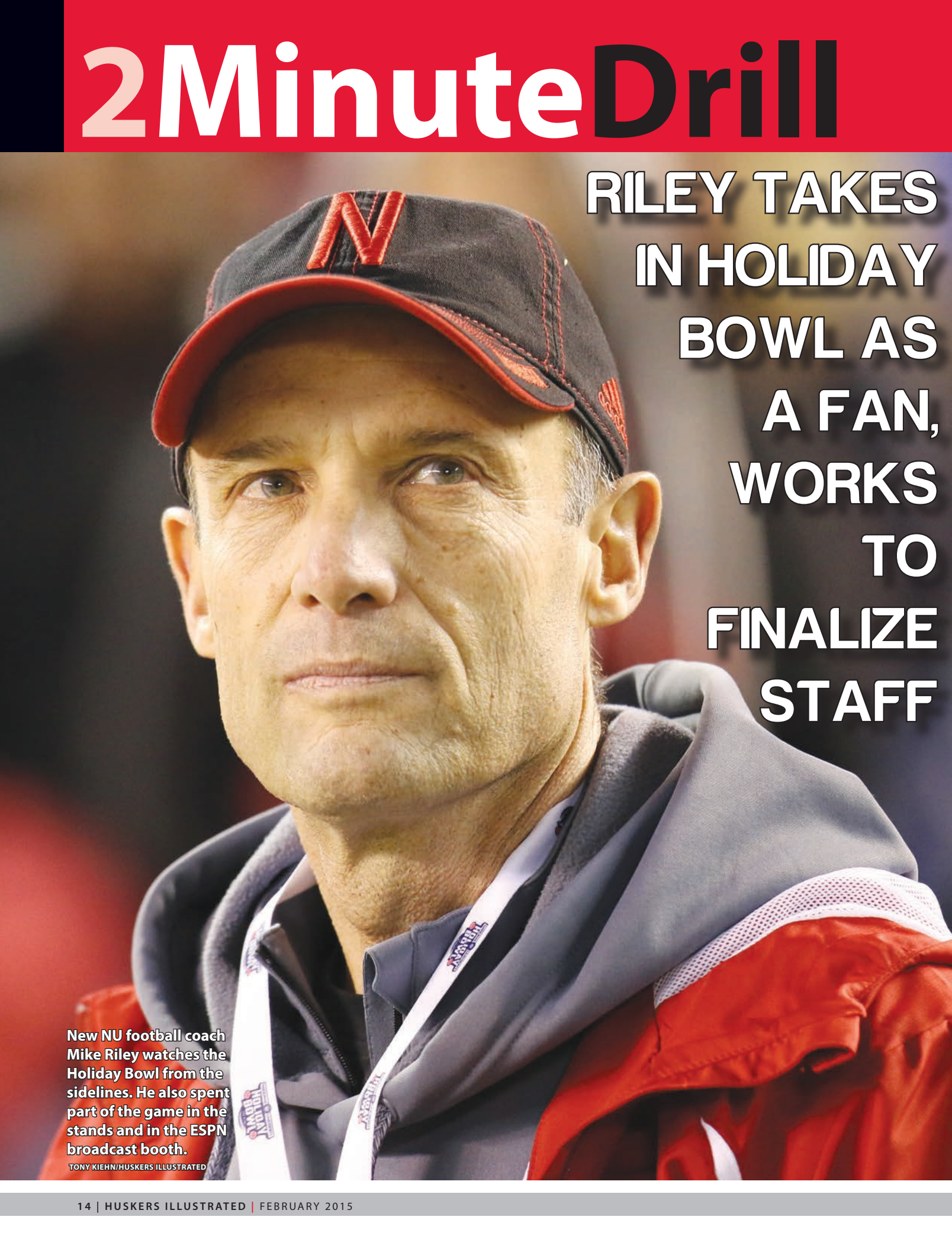






# 2MinuteDrill

**RILEY TAKES  
IN HOLIDAY  
BOWL AS  
A FAN,  
WORKS  
TO  
FINALIZE  
STAFF**



New NU football coach Mike Riley watches the Holiday Bowl from the sidelines. He also spent part of the game in the stands and in the ESPN broadcast booth.

TONY KIEHN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



By Darren Ivy, Michael Bruntz and Lanny Holstein

Nebraska coach Mike Riley told reporters before the Holiday Bowl that he was around “7-10 days” from completing his staff. The coach didn’t waste any time making it happen.

A little less than a week later, we learned from the *Cincinnati Enquirer* that Cincinnati co-defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Hank Hughes was headed to Nebraska as defensive line coach and co-defensive coordinator. We also learned that San Francisco 49ers assistant coach Reggie Davis will join the staff as running backs coach, according to multiple reports.

Hughes comes to Lincoln after sharing the defensive coordinator job at Cincinnati with Robert Prunty, calling the defense on game day. 2014 was the first year in Cincinnati for Hughes, who spent the previous 13 seasons at Connecticut.

Hughes is an experienced coach, having spent 36 years at various programs. He had two different stints as UConn’s defensive coordinator, and during that span the Huskies had several nationally-ranked defenses, made five bowl appearances and won a share of two conference championships.

Hughes’ teams at UConn were always stout against the run. They finished in the Top 25 in run defense in 2011, 2012 and 2013, finishing fourth, seventh and 25th respectively.

Prior to UConn, Hughes had stops at Memphis, Harvard, James Madison, Louisiana-Lafayette and several high schools. In recruiting, Hughes is responsible for two of Cincinnati’s current linebacker commitments. According to 247 Sports, he’s previously had some success going into the JUCO ranks, something he could be asked to do again with the Huskers.

As for Davis, he takes over as running backs coach after spending the past season as the 49ers’ assistant offensive line coach. He spent the three years prior to that as the team’s tight ends coach.

In 2013, Davis coached Vernon Davis to his second-career Pro Bowl and AP second-team All-Pro honors as he tied a career-high with 13 touchdown catches.

Prior to coaching in San Francisco, Davis spent the previous three years as the running backs coach at Oregon State under Riley. While he was there, running back Jacquizz Rodgers became the first freshman in the history of the Pac-10 Conference to earn its offensive MVP award in 2008. Rodgers rushed for 1,253 yards and earned All-America honors for his efforts.

Davis is also connected to Riley through his playing days. After graduating from Washington, Davis played two seasons under the Husker head man as a Charger.

New Nebraska offensive coordinator Danny Langsdorf said an opportunity for more expanded responsibility and a familiarity with old coaches was one of the reasons he decided to leave the NFL and return to college coaching.

Langsdorf had spent a year as the New York Giants’ quarterback coach, and will return to working with Riley, whom he worked with at Oregon State.

“Just a chance to run the offense, call plays, be in charge in a place that has a lot of tradition and history,” Langsdorf said of the Nebraska job to *NJ.com*. “And a place that I don’t know the place, I know the people, that is a big part of it too, being familiar with a lot of the guys.”

The 42-year-old Langsdorf said he has never been to Nebraska, but was interested in getting to work after a solid season with the Giants where quarterback Eli Manning completed 63.1 percent of his passes – a career high.

With the reported additions of Hughes, Davis and Langsdorf, they join with former Oregon State coaches Mike Cavanaugh (offensive line), Bruce Read (special teams coordinator), Trent Bray (linebackers), Mark Banker (defensive coordinator) and former Nebraska coach Charlton Warren (secondary) to leave one spot left.

## HI'S TOP 5

# BIG TEN CAREER ALL-PURPOSE YARDS LEADERS



TONY KIEHN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

- 1** **RON DAYNE, WISCONSIN**  
7,429 YARDS (1996-99)
- 2** **AMEER ABDULLAH, NEBRASKA**  
7,186 YARDS (2011-2014)
- 3** **ARCHIE GRIFFIN, OHIO STATE**  
6,559 YARDS (1972-75)
- 4** **ANTHONY THOMPSON, INDIANA**  
6,466 YARDS (1986-89)
- 5** **5. DORIEN BRYANT, PURDUE**  
6,219 YARDS (2004-07)

In addition to his 88 rushing yards in the Holiday Bowl, Ameer Abdullah had a season-high 120 yards on kickoff returns and 61 receiving yards for 269 all-purpose yards. With his 269 all-purpose yards, Abdullah increased his career all-purpose yardage total to 7,186. He is just the 11th player in NCAA FBS history to eclipse 7,000 career all-purpose yards. He finished his career second in the Big Ten, trailing only Ron Dayne's 7,429 career all-purpose yards.

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As of press time, Riley has yet to hire a wide receivers coach.

## AUDIO GATE 2.0

Former Nebraska coach Bo Pelini ended his career about as you might expect, guns a blazing and with a few expletives.

After being fired on the Sunday following Nebraska's regular season ending 37-34 win over Iowa, the coach met one last time with his former team at Lincoln North Star High School. A few days later an audio recording of the meeting was obtained by the *Omaha World-Herald* and released on Dec. 17.

On the tape, Pelini spends much of the time thanking his players for their time and effort and ensuring them that he will be alright in the future, but in select portions he took shots at the Nebraska administration, including athletic director Shawn Eichorst, claiming that his boss shied away from supporting his program and never wanted to talk. It got profane at times.

The Nebraska Athletic Department didn't appreciate hearing the former coach's remarks and fired back in a statement.

"If these comments were, indeed, spoken by Mr. Pelini, we are extremely disappointed, but it only reaffirms the decision that he should no longer be a leader of young men at Nebraska," the statement read. "His habitual use of inappropriate language, and his personal and professional attacks on administrators, are anti-ethical to the values of our university. His behavior is consistent with a pattern of unprofessional, disrespectful behavior directed by Mr. Pelini toward the passionate fans of Nebraska, employees of the university and, most concerning, our student-athletes. This

Randy Gregory battles with USC's Toa Lobendahn during the Holiday Bowl in what turned out to be his final game as a Husker after he declared for the NFL Draft..



behavior is not tolerated at the University of Nebraska and, among many other concerns, played a role in his dismissal.

Any assertions that the campus or athletics administration was not supportive of our student-athletes and our football program are flat out false and are contradicted by the facts."

## ABDULLAH, GREGORY NAMED ALL-AMERICANS

Nebraska senior I-back Ameer Abdullah and junior defensive end Randy Gregory were each named Associated Press All-Americans. Abdullah was a second-team pick, and Gregory was a third-team selection.

The honor was Abdullah's fourth this season, after also being named a second-team running back honoree by the Walter Camp Football Foundation, CBSSports.com and Scout.com.

A senior from Homewood, Ala., Abdullah rushed for 1,611 yards and 19 touch-

downs in 2014, including four 200-yard rushing games. Abdullah also became Nebraska's all-time leader in all-purpose yards, while ranking second on the school's career rushing yardage list.

Abdullah was one of three finalists for the Doak Walker Award, and has also received All-Big Ten honors for the past three seasons. Abdullah was a third-team AP All-American in 2013.

Gregory was tabbed as a third-team All-American after earning first-team All-Big Ten honors each of the past two seasons. He did so even though he missed nearly four games in 2014.

One of the most feared pass rushers in the Big Ten, Gregory had 54 total tackles, including seven sacks, 10 tackles for loss, while adding a team-high 16 quarterback hurries. He also blocked two field goals, broke up three passes and had an interception. Gregory is the first two-time all-conference honoree on the defensive line

at Nebraska since Ndamukong Suh in 2008 and 2009.

## COCKRELL EXCELS IN FIRST SEASON FOR NU

Once the clock reached double zeroes in the Holiday Bowl, Nebraska junior defensive back Byerson Cockrell turned his attention to Columbus, Mississippi.

Nestled on Highway 82 in Eastern Mississippi between Starkville and Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the town serves as Cockrell's hometown – a place he hasn't seen since early May. It's also home to his biggest supporters.

"I have people calling me all the time, writing me on Facebook, Instagram," Cockrell said. "They're all just proud of me. Coming from a small town, we don't see things like that."

It's been a crazy year for the junior college transfer. Cockrell won a national title with East Mississippi Community College last year, and a few weeks later enrolled at

# One Final Time

## with

# Ameer Abdullah

*Story By* LANNY HOLSTEIN • *Photo By* MITCH OTTO

*How does it feel to be done with college football?*

"It was surreal, man. It feels like just yesterday I was watching the senior class go out. I thought I had time, but here I am, man. I'm done with being a Husker. I just wanted to leave everything out on the field."

*How was it for you in the locker room after your final game?*

"It was emotional, very emotional. You can pretty much expect that because it's the last time I will see a lot of these guys. I'm not going to be a Husker next year, and that's weird for me. It's an emotion that I've never felt."

*Did you play this game for Bo Pelini a little bit?*

"Bo means the world to me, man. He changed my life. Nebraska's the only school that legitimately offered me as a running back coming out of high school, the only team that gave me a chance, and it's all because of coach Bo. Coach Bo saw something in me that a lot of coaches didn't."

*What did Bo tell you that got you here?*

"He always told me he wasn't going to promise me a starting position, he wasn't going to promise me this amount of carries. All he was going to promise me was the opportunity, and I had to make the most of it. I couldn't be more happy for it."

*Are you proud of how the team performed in the Holiday Bowl?*

"I couldn't be more proud of the team. We showed a lot of character. We were dealt a pretty bad hand the last few weeks, but we play circumstance free, not circumstance based. That's what we wanted to do, and I couldn't be more proud of the seniors."

*Did you guys just come out and play care free against USC?*

"We knew we could probably tempo them. I wouldn't really call it care free, but we were letting it loose, putting people in situations where we could be the most successful. Coach Beck did a great job doing that."

*How did you guys rally when the going got tough near the end?*

"We told our team that we want to play care free, stress free, nothing but our best ball. We kept our attitude up, and there it is."

*Were you impressed with the way Tommy Armstrong played?*

"He's the toughest kid I ever met. He's a warrior. He stands in the pocket, he takes hits and he runs the ball. The offense is on his shoulders every play, so he's the strongest kid I ever met, and I'm looking forward to seeing him play in the future. Today, he showed what kind of character he had and what kind of individual he is. The future is bright for him."

*What do you think of the team coming back next year?*

"It should be a good team. I know what kind of character they have. I know they are going to attack this offseason, and I know they are going to be a good team."

*What's the key to getting this team over the hump?*

"The sky's the limit, man, if we just fight. It's all about fighting and getting confidence. Anything is possible, so this game didn't come out like we wanted to, we wanted to win the game, but we came in here and we didn't drop the ball."





Nebraska, where he made an immediate push for playing time.

That November, Cockrell had been plucked from relative obscurity, at least as far as recruiting outlets were concerned and committed to Nebraska a short time later.

"I never thought that I'd be playing for Nebraska," Cockrell said. "I didn't think Nebraska was a state at first. I'm not good with states and all that. Especially being from Mississippi, I never left the state and I didn't know much. Now I come here. I've been all types of places."

As blessed as Cockrell says he is, Nebraska should feel just as fortunate. Cockrell has played safety, nickel and could even have played corner this year for Nebraska if needed. When Charles Jackson went down with an injury in fall camp, Cockrell stepped in to start at nickel. He then slid back and started at safety against Iowa.

Cockrell made 29 tackles and intercepted one pass this season. He and his secondary teammates were challenged in a big way against USC's talented passing game. He said he embraced the challenge, just as he had this season.

"I can tell from the first game, I have improved a lot, especially working with coach Bo. He taught me a lot," Cockrell said. "I've been improving ever since I've been here. I just have to keep that mojo going and keep going."

He will be part of a talented group returning in 2015 under this year's position coach Charlton Warren. Cockrell said that while he played safety in junior college and in high school, he would like to take another crack at a different spot for this senior year.

"When it's all said and done, corner is a place I'd like to end up," he said. "If I get

Kenny Bell and former NU wide receiver's coach Rich Fisher pose for a photo after the Holiday Bowl.



TONY KIEHN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

a chance to go to the league, or anything like that, that's the position I'd like to play. I feel like that's one of those spots that I have the best chance at."

Don't mistake Cockrell's desire to play corner as a self-ish move.

He said he would be willing to play anywhere that he's needed.

As his week in San Diego wrapped up, the 6-foot, 185-pounder said he was looking forward to getting back to Columbus, Mississippi, for a few days and getting out on the water.

He said he likes to fish, and has plenty of family members and supporters to catch up with.

"Coming from something like that, juko, having nothing and being out in the middle of nowhere," Cockrell said. "When I look back, I see that hard work really pays off. I feel like if I could give any young person advice, I'd tell them keeping working hard and don't ever give up, don't ever give up. Because you never know what might happen."

### BELL ACCEPTS INVITE TO PLAY IN SHRINE GAME

Nebraska wide receiver Kenny Bell has accepted an invitation to play in the 90th East-West Shrine Game.

The Game will be held January 17, 2015 at Tropicana

Field in St. Petersburg, Fla., kicking off at 4 p.m. EST and televised live on NFL Network.

Bell ended his career in the Holiday Bowl with six catches for 71 yards and one touchdown, finishing his senior season with 47 catches for 788 yards and six touchdowns.

Bell finished his career with a reception in 28 consecutive games.

Overall, Bell caught a pass in 51 of the past 52 games, and finished his career with a Nebraska-record 181 career receptions. He also became the first player in Nebraska history to lead the team in receptions for four-straight seasons.



# 2014 Final Stats

## SUMMARY

### SCORING

	1	2	3	4	OT	TOTAL
OPPONENTS	71	96	111	62	3	343
NEBRASKA	104	141	113	127	6	491

### TEAM STATS

	NEBRASKA	OPPONENTS
SCORING	491	343
Points Per Game	37.8	26.4
Points Off Turnovers	59	76
FIRST DOWNS	290	246
Rushing	149	113
Passing	115	118
Penalty	26	15
NET YARDS RUSHING	3,123	2,312
Rushing Attempts	587	488
Average Per Rush	5.3	4.7
Rushing Touchdowns	35	25
Yards Gained Rushing	3,360	2,633
Yards Lost Rushing	237	321
NET YARDS PASSING	2,757	2,676
Average Per Game	212.1	205.8
Completions-Attempts-Int.	190-359-12	214-441-13
Average Per Attempt	7.7	6.1
Average Per Completion	14.5	12.5
Passing Touchdowns	24	15
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	5,880	4,988
Total offense plays	946	929
Average Gain Per Play	6.2	5.4
Average Per Game	452.3	383.7
Fumbles: Number-Lost	27-13	20-10
Penalties: Number-Yards	75-655	78-680
PUNTS-YARDS	64-2,628	90-3,488
Average Yards Per Punt	41.4	38.8
Net Yards Per Punt	37.3	31.2
Inside 20	26	13
Touchbacks	5	3
Fair catch	20	16
Blocked	0	4
KICKOFFS-YARDS	90-5,518	65-3,696
Average Yards Per Kickoff	61.3	56.9
Net Yards Per Kickoff	39.1	36.2
Touchbacks	30	18
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	39-620-3	16-143-1
Average Per Return	15.9	8.9
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	43-894-0	59-1,248-1
Average Per Return	20.8	21.2
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	13-124-0	12-181-2
Average Per Interception Return	9.5	15.1
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	4-77-2	3-64-0
Possession Time/Game	30:16	29:44
Third-Down Conversions	76 of 184	58 of 193
3rd Down Pct.	41%	30%
Fourth-Down Conversions	6 of 13	10 of 20
4th Down Pct.	46%	50%
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	53-60	36-44
Touchdowns	42-60	27-44
Field goals	9-60	9-44
Sacks By: Number-Yards	29-240	22-129
Touchdowns Scored	64	44
PAT Kicks	60-60	44-44
Field Goals	15-22	11-16
ATTENDANCE	638,744	311,720
Games/Avg Per Game	7/91,249	5/62,344
Neutral Site Games		1/55,789



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## INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG	AVG/G
Abdullah, Ameer	264	1,657	46	1,611	19	57	6.1	123.9
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	145	842	137	705	6	42	4.9	54.2
Cross, Imani	75	397	13	384	5	62	5.1	32.0
Newby, Terrell	67	302	5	297	5	43	4.4	22.8
Nelson, Jordan	13	76	2	74	0	18	5.7	6.2
Fyfe, Ryker	7	52	5	47	0	15	6.7	6.7
Foltz, Sam	1	14	0	14	0	14	14.0	1.1
Pierson-El, De'Mornay	5	13	3	10	0	6	2.0	0.8
Nabity, Graham	2	7	0	7	0	4	3.5	0.6
TEAM	8	0	26	-26	0	0	-3.2	-2.2
Totals	587	3,360	237	3,123	35	62	5.3	240.2
Opponents	488	2,633	321	2,312	25	68	4.7	177.8

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	Avg/G	EFFIC
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	184-345-12	2,695	22	73	207.3	133.04
Fyfe, Ryker	4-10-0	40	1	12	5.7	106.06
TEAM	0-2-0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Stanton, Johnny	1-1-0	6	0	6	3.0	150.40
Pierson-El, De'Mornay	1-1-0	16	1	16	1.2	564.40
Abdullah, Ameer	0-0-0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
Total	190-359-12	2,757	24	73	212.1	132.81

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Bell, Kenny	47	788	6	73	60.6
Westerkamp, Jordan	44	747	5	70	57.5
Pierson-El, De'Mornay	23	321	4	46	24.7
Abdullah, Ameer	22	269	3	58	20.7
Moore, Alonzo	10	136	0	43	12.4
Allen, Taariq	8	73	1	34	5.6
Newby, Terrell	8	45	0	20	3.5
Carter, Cethan	6	98	1	34	10.9
Reilly, Brandon	6	85	0	35	12.1
Hovey, Lane	5	69	0	29	5.3
Turner, Jamal	4	37	0	17	18.5
Cotton, Sam	3	41	2	23	3.2
Janovich, Andy	1	16	0	16	1.2
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	1	16	1	16	1.2
Bailey, Christian	1	10	1	10	2.5
Foster, Trey	1	6	0	6	0.8
Totals	190	2,757	24	73	212.1
Opponents	214	2,676	15	71	205.8

SCORING	TD	FG	KICK	2 PT	TOTAL
Abdullah, Ameer	22	0	0	0	132
Brown, Drew	0	14	59	0	101
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	7	0	0	1	42
Pierson-El, De'Mornay	7	0	0	46	42
Bell, Kenny	6	0	0	73	38
Newby, Terrell	5	0	0	20	30
Cross, Imani	5	0	0	43	30
Westerkamp, Jordan	5	0	0	70	30
Cotton, Sam	2	0	0	23	12
Carter, Cethan	1	0	0	34	6
Allen, Taariq	1	0	0	34	6
Gerry, Nate	1	0	0	29	6
Mitchell, Josh	1	0	0	17	6
Bailey, Christian	1	0	0	10	6
Bondi, Mauro	0	1	1	6	4
Totals	64	15	60	1	491
Opponents	44	11	44	0	343

FIELD GOALS	FGM/FGA	PCT	Long	Block
Brown, Drew	14-21	66.7	44 yds	1
Bondi, Mauro	1-1	100.0	45 yds	0

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB	FC
Foltz, Sam	63	2,659	42.2	70	26	5	20
TEAM	1	-31	-31.0	0	0	0	0
Total	64	2,628	41.1	70	26	5	20
Opponents	90	3,488	38.8	74	13	3	16

	PUNT			KICKOFF			INTERCEPTION		
RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Pierson-El, DeMor.	34	596	86	10	147	20	0	0	0
Williams, Kieron	2	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abdullah, Ameer	0	0	0	14	392	76	0	0	0
Mitchell, Josh	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Janovich, Andy	0	0	0	3	38	17	0	0	0
Bell, Kenny	2	5	3	8	191	35	0	0	0
Santos, David	1	-10	-10	0	0	0	1	0	0
Gerry, Nate	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	92	54
Davie, Daniel	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	17	17
Cooper, Corey	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cockrell, Byerson	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	10
Gregory, Randy	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Kalu, Josh	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	5
Moore, Alonzo	0	0	0	3	53	21	1	5	5
Newby, Terrell	0	0	0	0	0	20	1	5	5
Cross, Imani	0	0	0	0	0	10	1	5	5
Hart, Greg	0	0	0	0	0	10	1	5	5
Totals	39	620	86	43	894	76	13	124	54
Opponents	16	143	28	59	1,248	98	12	181	98

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YDTFL-YDFF	FR-YDINT-YDBU	BLK	QBH
13 Anderson, Zaire	48	55	103	2-1613-34	3	2-16	- 5 - 3
25 Gerry, Nathan	49	39	88	5-2 7-9	2	1-3 5-92	4 - 3
6 Cooper, Corey	46	27	73	- 2-5	2	- 1-0	1 - 1
43 Roach, Trevor	32	31	63	1-7 7-18	1	2-6	- 2 - 2
4 Gregory, Randy	23	31	54	7-6710-69	1	- 1-0	3 2 16
52 Banderas, Josh	19	31	50	- 2-5	-	- - -	- 1
41 Santos, David	21	29	50	- 3-3	-	- 1-0	- - 1
90 McMullen, Greg	20	27	47	4-31 9-42	-	- - 4	- - 10
7A Collins, Maliek	17	28	45	4.5-33 14-47	-	- - -	- 13
98 Valentine, Vincent	20	25	45	3-22 7-28	1	- - 2	- - 2
23 Davie, Daniel	25	16	41	- 6-8	-	- 2-17	5 - -
5 Mitchell, Josh	33	6	39	2-14 2-14	-	1-57 1-0	13 - -
28 Cockrell, Byerson	18	11	29	- 1-5	-	1-0 1-10	7 - 1
2 Kalu, Josh	20	7	27	- 1-1	2	1-11 1-5	3 - 1
92 Williams, Kevin	5	14	19	3-28 8-34	-	- - -	- 2
95 Gangwish, Jack	7	12	19	5-6 4-9	1	- - 1	- - 2
14 Rose, Jonathan	13	5	18	- - -	-	- - 1	- -
24 Williams, Austin	7	6	13	- - -	-	- - -	- -
31 Felici, Joey	5	7	12	- - -	-	- - -	- -
2C Williams, Kieron	4	5	9	- 1-1	-	- - -	- 3 -
55 Maurice, Kevin	2	6	8	5-5 1-5	-	- - -	- 1
1E Jones, Chris	5	2	7	- - -	1-0	- - -	- -
39 Nelson, Jordan	3	4	7	- - -	-	- - -	- -
49 Weber, Paul	3	3	6	- - -	-	- - -	- -
51 Love, Courtney	4	2	6	- 1-1	-	- - -	- -
29 Nabity, Graham	2	3	5	- - -	-	- - -	- -
1B Hovey, Lane	3	2	5	- - -	-	- - -	- -
97 Rath, Logan	1	3	4	- 1-0	-	- - -	- -
3 Newby, Marcus	1	2	3	1-9 1-9	-	- - -	- 2
56 Peline, Mark	2	1	3	- - -	-	- - -	- -
80 Bell, Kenny	3	0	3	- - -	-	- - -	- -
27 Foltz, Sam	2	1	3	- - 1	-	- - -	- -
15 Pierson-El, De.	1	1	2	- - -	-	- - -	- -
5C Simpson, Brad	2	0	2	- - -	-	- - -	- -
19 Keels, Joe	1	0	1	- - -	-	- - -	- -
8A Singleton, D.J.	1	0	1	- - -	-	- - -	- -
9C Faulkenberry, J.	1	0	1	- - -	1-0	- - -	- -
7 Allen, Taariq	1	0	1	- - -	-	- - -	- -
1A Joseph, Boaz	1	0	1	- - -	-	- - -	- -
1 Westerkamp, Jo.	1	0	1	- - -	-	- - -	- -
87 Reilly, Brandon	0	1	1	- - -	-	- - -	1 -
68 Cotton, Jake	0	1	1	- - -	-	- - -	- -
45 Natter, A.J.	0	1	1	- - -	-	- - -	- -
74 Moudy, Mike	0	1	1	- - -	-	- - -	- -



# RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER

RECRUITING EDITOR

HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

## Class of 2015 could go down to wire

As the dead period draws to a close we decided to take another look at the 2015 class and break the commitments into tiers based on current status.

New Nebraska coach Mike Riley and assistants only had one week of actual recruiting in December, but the rag tag group had a strong week getting to nearly every commit despite being short-staffed and being thrown into a different situation. The coaches also brought four official visitors to campus – none of which were previously committed to Nebraska – and one of which ultimately decided to be a Husker.

Here's how things break down:

### 100 PERCENT N

**Avery Anderson** – The combination of Mike Riley's home visit and Charlton Warren's retention made holding Anderson (and the rest of the DBs) a slam dunk. The long-time Nebraska commit will finish up high school this month and then he gets a few weeks before enrolling in January. The Huskers plan to start Anderson out at cornerback but it wouldn't be surprising if he ultimately finds a home inside at nickelback.

**Tyrin Ferguson** – A new name for Nebraska fans, Ferguson jumped at the chance to follow his coaching staff from Oregon State to Nebraska. He's got good familiarity with the Huskers as he knows current players Glenn Irons, Jariah Tolbert and commit Stanley Morgan. Ferguson was one of the first players Riley's new crew reached out to which makes him a curiosity. If Riley didn't think he was a strong fit, he wouldn't have brought the

linebacker along.

**Eric Lee** – Similar to Anderson, Lee was Riley's first stop and was thrilled to know Warren was going to stay as his position coach. The Huskers made Lee a big target and he was the first commitment of Nebraska's entire class. Lee is definitely a cornerback at the next level and he's set to enroll in January. He'll be one of the most intriguing players to watch this spring.

**Stanley Morgan** – One of the commits that was most intrigued by the change from Bo Pelini to the new staff was Morgan. The receiver immediately saw the benefits of bringing in a staff that has helped put multiple receivers in the NFL and he stands to benefit with the Huskers likely shift in offensive philosophies. Riley meet with Morgan the last week of recruiting and everything is squared away.

**Matt Snyder** – The tight end only needed a couple weeks to flip from Oregon State to Nebraska to stay with his head coach. The Huskers landed a great player in Snyder, who will be part of a group of tight ends that should see a lot more action with the new staff then under the previous one. Snyder is particularly good in play-action.

**Aaron Williams** – Much like the other defensive backs, Williams is all set to enroll in January and get to work. A true safety, he'll have an opportunity to fight for special teams playing time and push the starters in front of him. Williams is one of the least talked about commits, but there's a lot of potential there. Don't be surprised if he makes an impact early on

special teams.

**Dedrick Young** – The most recent commit, Young has a chance to earn early playing time given his early enrollee status and the fact the Huskers lack linebackers right now. Young is raw but he's got great athleticism and if the Huskers move from a patient defense to an attacking style, that could help play into Young seeing time early.

### SOLID FOR NOW

**Carlos Davis, Khalil**

**Davis** – In recruiting a week is a lifetime and the Davis twins are an example of it. The two defensive linemen seemed to be leaning away from Nebraska and to in-state school Missouri. However, following Riley's well-timed and well-executed visit, the twins are back in with Nebraska and are going to wait to take a visit to the Tigers in January – if at all. Good decisions at defensive line coach or defensive coordinator help move the Davis brothers up a tier.

**Michael Decker** – One of two in-state commits and not swimming in options, it's unlikely Decker looks elsewhere. He hasn't been a high priority for the staff at this point, but new offensive line coach Mike Cavanaugh has reached out and things are stable. Decker could be a good interior lineman addition – a strength for Nebraska.

**Christian Gaylord** – Probably the toughest to categorize at the moment, but there's no reason for concern with Gaylord for now. The four-star tackle grew up a Husker fan and he was one of the first that Cavanaugh reached out to

upon taking the job. Of all of Nebraska's commits, Gaylord is by far the hottest commodity. For now he hasn't been linked anywhere else. This is a big one for Nebraska to keep.

### WORK TO DO

**Reuben Jones** – Louisville seems to be the team making the biggest push for Jones. The defensive end committed to Nebraska in the middle of November, so he's a little less tied in to the other commitments. Jones appreciated the visit from Mark Banker and the phone calls he's had but the defender won't be solidified until he meets the defensive line coach Hank Hughes. Should be a January priority, but watch out for Florida, who is trying to get into the mix.

**Nekyle Lundie** – Possibly not the best fit tier wise but if the Huskers plan to keep Lundie then they'll need to let the wide receiver know. Right now his high school coach is still in the dark about what the plan was going forward. It's highly unlikely the Huskers hold onto Lundie as a commitment.

**Daishon Neal** – Perhaps the commitment most in danger of going elsewhere, Neal's been in the news a lot lately. The defensive end hosted Oregon on the last visit Saturday of December and the in-home visit went very well according to Neal. The defensive end then heard from coach Riley but the seed was planted to get out and see Eugene. It's not currently known where the defender falls on Oregon's board at this time, but he's also talked about and planned trips to Oklahoma and Iowa. **N**



# New Year brings some bold prognostications for Nebraska football program

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

**THE NEW YEAR RINGS IN NEW** opportunities for the Nebraska football program. There's also the added newness of head coach Mike Riley, a new staff and plenty of questions and excitement heading into spring ball, and the anticipation of the 2015 season a little less than nine months away.

There's also an opportunity for changes off the field too. The way Nebraska handles recruiting, spring football, camps and many other things could all be very different than what most have grown accustomed to over the past seven years.

January is always a good time for making prognostications. Here are a few that we feel are particularly bold heading into 2015.

## Nebraska signs a Top 25 Class in 2015

The final few weeks leading up to Signing Day in February are going to be interesting ones on the recruiting trail for Nebraska. Expect Nebraska to lose a commit or two before Signing Day, but Nebraska is also in the running for a number of top recruits.

NU has added three commitments since the hire and is in position to add four or five more players to the rest of this class. If Nebraska finishes strong there's the change that the right combination puts the Huskers into the Top 25 and No. 3 in the conference overall. That happens if the Huskers close out players like California wide receiver Lavan Alston, Oklahoma offensive guard Jalin Barnett and pluck one of the top running back targets. Then with the remaining two spots the team can add linebacker Adrienne Talan and another athlete that could play wide receiver or on defense at safety or linebacker. The class could even grow more based on expected attrition from the current roster.

## A newcomer leads the RBs

Nebraska and Mike Riley will face the tall task of replacing Ameer Abdullah next season, and there are plenty of talented options for the Huskers. There's senior Imani Cross and junior Terrell Newby returning, but keep an eye on Adam Taylor, who missed all of last season with a broken ankle and Mikale Wilbon, who is coming off a redshirt season where he was impressive in scout team work. Both Taylor and Wilbon have the goods to tote the rock for Nebraska, and with every running back starting on the same page, many are expecting a big year from Taylor and Wilbon.

## Freshmen make an impact

There's good veteran talent at Nebraska, but there are several spots on the field where freshmen or redshirt freshmen could have a quick impact for the Huskers. It wouldn't be a surprise if multiple starters on the offensive line are redshirt freshmen, as guys like Tanner Farmer, D.J. Foster and Nick Gates get the opportunity to take over on the interior. Foster



**Both Adam Taylor and Mikale Wilbon have the goods to tote the rock for Nebraska, and with every running back starting on the same page, many are expecting a big year from Taylor and Wilbon.**

was the co-offensive scout team player of the year, and Farmer has shown he's a future road grader.

Elsewhere on defense true freshmen like Avery Anderson, Eric Lee and Dedrick Young might be talented enough to force their way on the field early. All three will enroll early, and it wouldn't be surprising to see some even as starters late in the season.

## Nebraska wins division

Some might not consider this bold enough, but the Huskers should be the favorite in the West Division with all the change sweeping over this group of teams. NU will be breaking in a new coach and possibly some other personnel changes, but Riley is a veteran coach and could provide a steady presence for a talented group.

Depending on injuries and potential departures, Nebraska has a strong defensive unit for 2015 with the return of several players from injuries. Combine that with some emerging offensive weapons and a schedule where the toughest road game will be non-conference games in September, things break well for the Huskers.

## Danny Langsdorf lands a big-time quarterback

One thing that happens with most coaching changes is there's a recruiting bump for the first full-time class. Coaches sell the fresh start and the opportunity for recruits to get in on the ground floor of something that has the potential to be great. That pitch will extend to some major quarterbacks for 2016 and that's where Langsdorf's resume might help put the Huskers over the top.

Nebraska hasn't had the most success when it comes to finding an elite quarterback, but Riley and Langsdorf each have a great history with the position and now have the brand and the resources to sell. Combine that with Langsdorf's tutelage of NFL quarterbacks and it's not a stretch to imagine some big names coming in for spring practice visits or quarterback camp.

*Read daily Husker reports from  
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HuskersIllustrated.com  
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AUG. 30 RESULT  
55-7 WIN  
FINAL RECORD  
3-8



SEPT. 6 RESULT  
31-24 WIN  
FINAL RECORD  
6-5



SEPT. 13 RESULT  
55-19 WIN  
FINAL RECORD  
6-8



SEPT. 20 RESULT  
41-31 WIN  
FINAL RECORD  
6-7



SEPT. 27 RESULT  
45-14 WIN  
FINAL RECORD  
6-7



OCT. 4 RESULT  
27-22 LOSS  
FINAL RECORD  
10-2?



OCT. 18 RESULT  
38-17 WIN  
FINAL RECORD  
5-7



OCT. 25 RESULT  
42-24 WIN  
FINAL RECORD  
8-5



Jordan Westerkamp runs away from the USC defense on his 65-yard touchdown catch in the third quarter that brought the Huskers within 45-34.



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## NEBRASKA'S 2015 TO 2018 OPPONENTS

### 2015 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
9/5	BYU	Lincoln, Neb.
9/12	South Alabama	Lincoln, Neb.
9/19	Miami (Fla.)	Miami, Fla.
9/26	Southern Miss	Lincoln, Neb.
10/3	Illinois	Champaign, Ill.
10/10	Wisconsin	Lincoln, Neb.
10/17	Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.
10/24	Northwestern	Lincoln, Neb.
10/31	Purdue	West Lafayette, Ind.
11/7	Michigan State	Lincoln, Neb.
11/14	Rutgers	Piscataway, N.J.
11/27	Iowa	Lincoln, Neb.
12/5	Big Ten Game	Indianapolis, Ind.

### 2016 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
9/3	Fresno State	Lincoln, Neb.
9/10	Wyoming	Lincoln, Neb.
9/17	Oregon	Lincoln, Neb.
10/1	Illinois	Lincoln, Neb.
10/8	Northwestern	Evanston, Ill.
10/15	Indiana	Bloomington, Ind.
10/22	Purdue	Lincoln, Neb.
10/29	Wisconsin	Madison, Wis.
11/5	Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio
11/12	Minnesota	Lincoln, Neb.
11/19	Maryland	Lincoln, Neb.
11/25	Iowa	Iowa City, Ia.
12/3	Big Ten Game	Indianapolis, Ind.

### 2017 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
9/2	TBA	Lincoln, Neb.
9/9	Oregon	Eugene, Ore.
9/16	Northern Illinois	Lincoln, Neb.
9/23	Rutgers	Lincoln, Neb.
9/30	Illinois	Champaign, Ill.
10/7	Wisconsin	Madison, Wis.
10/14	Ohio State	Lincoln, Neb.
10/28	Purdue	West Lafayette, Ind.
11/4	Northwestern	Lincoln, Neb.
11/11	Minnesota	Minneapolis, Minn.
11/18	Penn State	State College, Pa.
11/24	Iowa	Lincoln, Neb.
12/2	Big Ten Game	Indianapolis, Ind.

### 2018 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
9/1	Akron	Lincoln, Neb.
9/8	Colorado	Lincoln, Neb.
9/15	Troy	Lincoln, Neb.
9/22	Michigan	Ann Arbor, Mich.
9/29	Purdue	Lincoln, Neb.
10/6	Wisconsin	Madison, Wis.
10/13	Northwestern	Evanston, Ill.
10/20	Minnesota	Lincoln, Neb.
11/3	Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio
11/10	Illinois	Lincoln, Neb.
11/17	Michigan State	Lincoln, Neb.
11/23	Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa
12/1	Big Ten Game	Indianapolis, Ind.



NOV. 1 RESULT  
35-14 WIN  
FINAL RECORD  
3-9



NOV. 16 RESULT  
59-24 LOSS  
FINAL RECORD  
9-37



NOV. 22 RESULT  
28-24 LOSS  
FINAL RECORD  
8-57



NOV. 28 RESULT  
37-34 OT WIN  
FINAL RECORD  
7-57



DEC. 27 RESULT  
45-42 LOSS  
FINAL RECORD  
9-4

**BIGTEN BEAT** | COMPILED BY DOUG GRIFFITHS

# Ohio State advances to first ever Playoff Championship game



Terrell Newby carries the ball against USC.

TONY KIEHN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

Just when it needed it the most the Big Ten got a tidal wave of positive momentum when it might have least expected it.

First, Jim Harbaugh was lured away from the NFL and back to his alma mater Michigan to immediately make the Wolverine program nationally relevant again.

Then, the conference braced for a post-season in which the oddsmakers had all 10 Big Ten teams participating in bowl games listed as underdogs.

The league entered New Year's Day with a 2-3 record in bowl games. It was supposed to be a very long Jan. 1 for the Big Ten. Instead, it turned out to be one the conference will never forget.

The league won three of its four games on New Year's Day, including a pair of tilts against top-five teams.

Mark Dantonio's Michigan State Spartans had a comeback for the ages in the Cotton Bowl to knock off No. 5 Baylor, a team that many thought should be in the four-team College Football Playoff instead

of Ohio State.

The Buckeyes then did what no one outside of their program and the state of Ohio thought they could do, upset No. 1 Alabama in the Sugar Bowl and advance to the national championship game Jan. 12 to meet No. 2 Oregon, which beat defending national champion and No. 3-ranked Florida State.

In addition, Wisconsin, behind athletic director and former head coach Barry Alvarez, shocked SEC power Auburn in overtime in the Outback Bowl.

Iowa's loss to Tennessee in the Taxslayer Bowl the following day kept the Big Ten from having a winning record in the post-season – it finished 5-5 – but the .500 mark certainly didn't tarnish the often slammed Big Ten image.

In fact, a case could be made that the Big Ten has more momentum going into this off-season than it has in a number of years.

Of course Ohio State will play for the national championship, but going forward

## EAST DIVISION

### 2014 Standings

Team	Overall	Conference
Ohio State	13-1	8-0
Michigan State	11-2	7-1
Maryland	7-6	4-3
Rutgers	8-5	3-5
Michigan	5-7	3-5
Penn State	7-6	2-6
Indiana	4-8	1-7

## WEST DIVISION

Team	Overall	Conference
Wisconsin	11-3	7-1
Nebraska	9-4	5-3
Minnesota	8-5	5-3
Iowa	7-6	4-4
Illinois	6-7	3-5
Northwestern	5-7	3-5
Purdue	3-9	1-7

### Dec. 26 Results

*Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl (Dallas)*  
Louisiana Tech 35, Illinois 18  
*Quick Lane Bowl (Detroit)*  
Rutgers 40, North Carolina 21

### Dec. 27 Results

*New Era Pinstripe Bowl (New York)*  
Penn State 31, Boston College 30  
*National University Holiday Bowl (San Diego)* USC 45, Nebraska 42

### Dec. 30 Result

*Foster Farms Bowl (Santa Clara, Calif.)*  
Stanford 45, Maryland 21

### Jan. 1 Results

*Outback Bowl (Tampa, Fla.)* - Wisconsin 34, Auburn 31 (OT)  
*Goodyear Cotton Bowl (Arlington, Texas)*  
Michigan State 42, Baylor 41  
*Buffalo Wild Wings Citrus Bowl (Orlando, Fla.)* - Missouri 33, Minnesota 17  
*All-State Sugar Bowl (national semis, New Orleans)* - Ohio State 42, Alabama 35

### Jan. 2 Result

*Taxslayer Bowl (Jacksonville, Fla.)*  
Tennessee 45, Iowa 28

### Jan. 12 Game

National Championship Game  
(Arlington, Texas) - Ohio State vs. Oregon, 7:30 p.m., ESPN



the Buckeyes seem to be a year ahead of schedule and will be one of the top teams in the country next season. Plus, Michigan State's program is as strong as it has ever been. It seems like just a matter of time before Michigan is a force to be reckoned with now that Harbaugh is in Ann Arbor. And Penn State appears to be on the upswing now that the NCAA sanctions are behind it.

The Big Ten's East Division is loaded, while the teams in the West Division must improve or the East will dominate for the foreseeable future.

Following *Huskers Illustrated* recaps some of the recent football happenings around the Big Ten.

### **EAST DIVISION INDIANA HOOSIERS**

To no one's surprise, junior running back Tevin Coleman opted to leave IU a year early and head to the NFL.

Coleman will leave the Hoosiers with a gigantic void to fill.

The consensus first-team All-American and Doak Walker Award finalist rushed for 2,036 yards this season, becoming the 18th player in Division I history to reach 2,000 yards.

Coleman is ranked as the NFL draft's No. 3 running back, behind Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon and Georgia's Todd Gurley. However, Coleman might not be chosen until the third or fourth rounds.

### **MARYLAND TERRAPINS**

Maryland didn't have a memorable bowl experience.

The Terrapins were blown out by Stanford 45-21, marking the first time this season they had lost back-to-back games. Maryland blew a 35-10 lead in the regular-season finale at Rutgers.

The Terrapins got more bad news a few days after their bowl game when star receiver Stefon Diggs announced he would forego his senior season and enter the NFL draft.

Diggs will be close to impossible for Coach Randy Edsall to replace. He was a five-star prospect, who spurned offers from Alabama, Florida State and USC among many others.

The second-team All-Big Ten pick this season finished his career with 150 catches for 2,227 yards with 14 touchdowns and two kickoff returns for touchdowns.

Diggs was the lone bright spot against the Cardinal when he hauled in 10 passes for 138 yards.

### **MICHIGAN WOLVERINES**

Michigan got its man in Jim Harbaugh, who will now have his work cut out to get the Wolverine program back on top of the college football world.

Late last month he officially became Michigan's 20th head football coach.

Harbaugh certainly has the resume the Big Blue was looking for. Other than staring for the Wolverines under center and later in the NFL, Harbaugh turned two college program around, went to a Super Bowl and three NFC title games in his first three years as an NFL head coach.

Michigan fans believe he's their saviour. Harbaugh laughs just belief off. He makes no guarantees though.

"Top to bottom Michigan is about excellence, is about greatness and you have my pledge that I will carry forward the excellence of the University of Michigan football program," Harbaugh said. "There have been times in my life where I've thought and dreamed about (having this job).

"Now it's time to live it."

That has to be great to hear for Wolverine fans everywhere.

### **MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS**

The Spartans' magic continues under Dantonio.

MSU's thrilling win over Baylor will be one remember forever by Green and White fans.

The Spartans trailed by 20 points in the fourth quarter, but rallied to win in the final seconds to win their fourth straight bowl game.

Michigan State finishes the season 11-2 with the two losses coming to Oregon and Ohio State.

The Spartans' improbable comeback was set up thanks to a blocked field goal that included an incredible hit that has

circulated all over social media.

Michigan State won the game when quarterback Connor Cook hit Keith Mumphery for a 10-yard touchdown pass with 17 seconds to play.

As he was all season, running back Jeremy Langford was special. He ran for a game-high 162 yards with three touchdowns. It was his 10th straight 100-yard effort.

MSU's defense did its part, too, holding the Bears to 20 yards rushing on 22 carries.

The Spartans should be a force again in the Big Ten's East Division next year, but will have to replace star defensive coordinator Pat Narduzzi, who left to become Pitt's new head coach.

### **OHIO STATE BUCKEYES**

Ohio State is truly living a dream right now.

Who thought the Buckeyes would be playing for a national championship after they lost at home early in the season to Virginia Tech?

Of course prior to that no one thought they would because they were without Braxton Miller.

Later in the season when they lost J.T. Barrett and had to go with third-string QB Cardale Jones no one thought they would win the Big Ten Championship, let alone get in the final four.

However, Urban Meyer's Buckeyes keep surprising.

Their biggest surprise to date came when they beat top-ranked Alabama in the Sugar Bowl to punch their ticket to the national championship game.

No one had a more impressive performance against Bama than running back Ezekiel Elliott, whose 85-yard run gave his team a 42-28 fourth-quarter lead. He ran for 230 yards helping OSU rally from a 21-6 deficit.

Since Florida State lost to Oregon, Ohio State now has the distinction of having the nation's longest active winning streak with 12 consecutive victories.

### **PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS**

James Franklin's inaugural season in Happy Valley has to be considered a

success, especially after the overtime win against Boston College in the postseason to finish 7-6. To finish with a winning record, the Nittany Lions, who trailed 30-24, needed a touchdown and an extra point in overtime to beat BC.

Quarterback Christian Hackenberg hit tight end Kyle Carter for a 10-yard score on third-and-seven and kicker Sam Ficken drilled the PAT to give Penn State a win in its first bowl appearance since 2011.

After an up-and-down sophomore year, Hackenberg looked great in Yankee Stadium, throwing for 371 yards and four touchdowns. Hackenberg engineered an offense that racked up 453 yards against the Eagles. Not bad, considering the unit was last in the Big Ten, averaging just 325.5 yards per game, and 19.8 points.

#### RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS

The Scarlet Knights had a memorable first season in the Big Ten which included a convincing win over North Carolina in the Quick Lane Bowl. Rutgers finished the season with an 8-5 record.

Against the Tar Heels, the Scarlet Knights may have found a star running back in freshman Josh Hicks. All he did was gain 194 yards on 18 carries and scored a touchdown. Rookie running back Robert Martin also had a good bowl game, gaining 100 yards on 19 attempts with a pair of touchdowns.

Rutgers could be in store for another good year in 2015 as plenty of talent returns on both sides of the ball, but quarterback Gary Nova will have to be replaced.

#### WEST DIVISION

##### ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI

The Illini showed how much they didn't belong in the postseason when they got hammered by Conference USA's Louisiana Tech, 35-18 in the Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl.

Illinois, which ended the season 6-7, struggled to finish drives. It notched 450 yards, but went just 3-of-15 on third down.

Not helping matters were two missed field goals – a 42- and 46-yarder.

The defense allowed 361 yards, which wasn't bad for a unit dead last in the conference in total defense (464.3 yards per game). Illinois senior quarterback con-

nected on 24-of-39 passes for 295 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

#### IOWA HAWKEYES

The Hawkeyes laid an egg in its bowl game against Tennessee, losing by 17 points. Iowa fell behind 28-0, but scored three times in the final quarter to make it somewhat respectable.

Iowa earned 7.0 yards per carry as Jordan Canzeri led the way with 12 carries for 120 yards. The problem was the passing game, which mustered just a pair of plays for 18 yards or more. Iowa's defense wasn't good, allowing 461 yards.

#### MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

Minnesota's season didn't end the way it wanted it to with a rather lopsided loss to Missouri in the Citrus Bowl.

The Gophers finished the season losing two games in a row and three of their last four. What killed Minnesota against the Tigers was its inability to run the football.

It had just 106 yards on the ground and lost three fumbles. As a result, quarterback Mitch Leidner had to pass much more than Coach Jerry Kill would've liked. Leidner completed 21-of-31 passes for 258 yards with a touchdown. Running back David Cobb was held in check as he finished with 81 yards on 21 carries.

#### NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

The Wildcats have missed the postseason for two years in a row after going to five straight bowl games. To NU's credit, it was 3-6 and had lost four straight games, but won at Notre Dame and had it beat Illinois in the regular-season, Northwestern would've gone to a bowl. Pat Fitzgerald will count heavily next year on talented running back Justin Jackson. As a freshman, he ran for nearly 1,200 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Fitzgerald will also rely on junior cornerback Nick VanHoose, a second-team all-conference pick, who was fourth on the team with 59 tackles and second in the league with



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Tommy Armstrong Jr. tries to avoid the tackle of Su'a Cravens.

TONY KIEHN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

1.2 passes defended per game.

### PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

Darrell Hazell knows he must have success in recruiting to turn the Boilermakers' fortunes around. Hazell appears to be doing a decent job on the recruiting trail, too. He landed Indiana Mr. Football Markell Jones, a running back and Kentucky's Mr. Football Elijah Sindelar.

Sindelar, who suffered a season-ending knee injury last this fall, threw for 49 touchdowns to become the state's leader with 144. That broke the mark of 133 set by Ricky Bowling and Tim Couch.

Sindelar also threw for 12,637 yards in his career to rank second all-time and had 41 straight games with at least one TD pass. He underwent successful surgery Dec. 15 and expects to make a full recovery.

### WISCONSIN BADGERS

Wisconsin has had good news and bad news to deal with over the last month.

Right after losing in the Big Ten Championship Game, the program was stunned when coach Gary Andersen announced he was leaving for Oregon State.

The Badgers didn't waste any time finding Andersen's replacement, turning to for-

mer coordinator Paul Chryst, who was the head coach at Pitt.

Chryst will take over a Badger program that will have to somehow fill the void left by tailback Melvin Gordon, who decided to leave school early for the NFL. In the thrilling win over Auburn, Gordon rushed for 251 yards and three touchdowns on a career-high 34 carries.

Gordon's college career ends with him ranking second on the FBS single-season rushing list (2,587 yards), just 41 yards shy of Barry Sanders' single-season mark set in 1988. Gordon also finished the season with 29 rushing touchdowns.

### Final Results



Last Week, Season



**Darren Ivy**  
(6-1, 56-42)



**Mike Schaefer**  
(3-4, 60-38)



**Michael Bruntz**  
(1-6, 61-37)



**Bob Hamar**  
(4-3, 61-37)



**Terry Douglass**  
(2-5, 61-37)



**Doug Griffiths**  
(5-2, 68-30)



**Lanny Holstein**  
(3-4, 66-32)

# 2014 Bowl Game Results (All times E.S.T.)

## R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl

Sat., Dec. 20, 11:00am ET, ESPN



3  
Nevada

vs.



16  
UL Lafayette

## Gildan New Mexico Bowl

Sat., Dec. 20, 2:20pm ET, ESPN



21  
Utah State

vs.



6  
UTEP

## Royal Purple Las Vegas Bowl

Sat., Dec. 20, 3:30pm ET, ABC



45  
(22) Utah

vs.



10  
Colorado State

## Miami Beach Bowl

Mon., Dec. 22, 2:00pm ET, ESPN



48  
BYU

vs.



55  
Memphis

## Boca Raton Bowl

Tue., Dec. 23, 6:00pm ET, ESPN



52  
Marshall

vs.



23  
Northern Illinois

## San Diego County CU Poinsettia Bowl

Tue., Dec. 23, 9:30pm ET, ESPN



17  
Navy

vs.



16  
San Diego State

## Zaxby's Heart of Dallas Bowl

Fri., Dec. 26, 1:00pm ET, ESPN



18  
Illinois

vs.



35  
Louisiana Tech

## Quick Lane Bowl

Fri., Dec. 26, 4:30pm ET, ESPN



40  
Rutgers

vs.



21  
North Carolina

## Bitcoin St. Petersburg Bowl

Fri., Dec. 26, 8:00pm ET, ESPN



34  
NC State

vs.



27  
UCF

## Duck Commander Independence Bowl

Sat., Dec. 27, 3:30pm ET, ABC



21  
Miami, FL

vs.



24  
South Carolina

## New Era Pinstripe Bowl

Sat., Dec. 27, 4:30pm ET, ESPN



30  
Boston College

vs.



31  
Penn State

## National University Holiday Bowl

Sat., Dec. 27, 8:00pm ET, ESPN



42  
Nebraska

vs.



45  
(24) USC

## AdvoCare Texas Bowl

Mon., Dec. 29, 9:00pm ET, ESPN



31  
Arkansas

vs.



7  
Texas

## Franklin Amer. Mort. Music City Bowl

Tue., Dec. 30, 3:00pm ET, ESPN



31  
Notre Dame

vs.



28  
(23) LSU

## Belk Bowl

Tue., Dec. 30, 6:30pm ET, ESPN



37  
(13) Georgia

vs.



14  
(21) Louisville

## Vizio Fiesta Bowl

Wed., Dec. 31, 4:00pm ET, ESPN



38  
(20) Boise State

vs.



30  
(10) Arizona

## Capital One Orange Bowl

Wed., Dec. 31, 8:00pm ET, ESPN



34  
(7) Mississippi St.

vs.



49  
(12) Georgia Tech

## Outback Bowl

Thu., Jan. 1, Noon ET, ESPN2



31  
(19) Auburn

vs.



34  
(18) Wisconsin

## Rose Bowl Game - Semifinal

Thu., Jan. 1, 5:00pm ET, ESPN



59  
(2) Oregon

vs.



20  
(3) Florida State

## Allstate Sugar Bowl - Semifinal

Thu., Jan. 1, 8:30pm ET, ESPN



35  
(1) Alabama

vs.



42  
(4) Ohio State

## Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl

Fri., Jan. 2, Noon ET, ESPN



35  
Houston

vs.



34  
Pittsburgh

## TicketCity Cactus Bowl

Fri., Jan. 2, 10:15pm ET, ESPN



22  
Washington

vs.



30  
Oklahoma State

## Birmingham Bowl

Sat., Jan. 3, Noon ET, ESPN



20  
East Carolina

vs.



28  
Florida

## GoDaddy Bowl

Sun., Jan. 4, 9:00pm ET, ESPN



63  
Toledo

vs.



44  
Arkansas State




**Famous Idaho Potato Bowl**  
Sat., Dec. 20, 5:45pm ET, ESPN


24  
**Western Michigan**


vs.


38  
**Air Force**

**Popeyes Bahamas Bowl**  
Wed., Dec. 24, Noon ET, ESPN


48  
**Central Michigan**

vs.


49  
**WKU**

**Military Bowl**  
Sat., Dec. 27, 1:00pm ET, ESPN


17  
**Cincinnati**

vs.


33  
**Virginia Tech**

**AutoZone Liberty Bowl**  
Mon., Dec. 29, 2:00pm ET, ESPN


45  
**Texas A&M**

vs.


37  
**West Virginia**

**Foster Farms Bowl**  
Tue., Dec. 30, 10:00pm ET, ESPN


21  
**Maryland**

vs.


45  
**Stanford**

**Goodyear Cotton Bowl**  
Thu., Jan. 1, 12:30pm ET, ESPN


42  
**(8) Michigan State**

vs.


41  
**(5) Baylor**


**TaxSlayer Bowl**  
Fri., Jan. 2, 3:20pm ET, ESPN


28  
**Iowa**

vs.


45  
**Tennessee**

**Raycom Media Camellia Bowl**  
Sat., Dec. 20, 9:15pm ET, ESPN


28  
**South Alabama**

vs.


33  
**Bowling Green**

**Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl**  
Wed., Dec. 24, 8:00pm ET, ESPN


6  
**Fresno State**

vs.


30  
**Rice**

**Hyundai Sun Bowl**  
Sat., Dec. 27, 2:00pm ET, CBS


36  
**(15) Arizona State**

vs.


31  
**Duke**

**Russell Athletic Bowl**  
Mon., Dec. 29, 5:30pm ET, ESPN


40  
**(17) Clemson**

vs.


6  
**Oklahoma**

**Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl**  
Wed., Dec. 31, 12:30 ET, ESPN


3  
**(9) Ole Miss**

vs.


42  
**(6) TCU**

**Buffalo Wild Wings Citrus Bowl**  
Thu., Jan. 1, 1:00pm ET, ABC


17  
**(25) Minnesota**

vs.


33  
**(16) Missouri**

**Valero Alamo Bowl**  
Fri., Jan. 2, 6:45pm ET, ESPN


35  
**(11) Kansas State**

vs.


40  
**(14) UCLA**

**CFB Championship Game**  
Mon., Jan. 12, 8:30pm ET, ESPN


(4) Ohio State

vs.


(2) Oregon

# NEBRASKA'S ALL-TIME BOWL RESULTS

Jan. 1, 1941	Stanford 21, Nebraska 13	1941 Rose
Jan. 1, 1955	Duke 34, Nebraska 7	1955 Orange
Dec. 15, 1962	Nebraska 36, Miami 34	1962 Gotham
Jan. 1, 1964	Nebraska 13, Auburn 7	1964 Orange
Jan. 1, 1965	Arkansas 10, Nebraska 7	1965 Cotton
Jan. 1, 1966	Alabama 39, Nebraska 28	1966 Orange
Jan. 2, 1967	Alabama 34, Nebraska 7	1967 Sugar
Dec. 20, 1969	Nebraska 45, Georgia 6	1969 Sun
Jan. 1, 1971	Nebraska 17, LSU 12	1971 Orange
Jan. 1, 1972	Nebraska 38, Alabama 6	1972 Orange
Jan. 1, 1973	Nebraska 40, Notre Dame 6	1973 Orange
Jan. 1, 1974	Nebraska 19, Texas 3	1974 Cotton
Dec. 31, 1974	Nebraska 13, Florida 10	1974 Sugar
Dec. 26, 1975	Arizona State 17, Nebraska 14	1975 Fiesta
Dec. 31, 1976	Nebraska 27, Texas Tech 24	1976 Bluebonnet
Dec. 19, 1977	Nebraska 21, North Carolina 17	1977 Liberty
Jan. 1, 1979	Oklahoma 31, Nebraska 24	1979 Orange
Jan. 1, 1980	Houston 17, Nebraska 14	1980 Cotton
Dec. 27, 1980	Nebraska 31, Mississippi State 17	1980 Sun
Jan. 1, 1982	Clemson 22, Nebraska 15	1982 Orange
Jan. 1, 1983	Nebraska 21, LSU 20	1983 Orange
Jan. 2, 1984	Miami (FL) 31, Nebraska 30	1984 Orange
Jan. 1, 1985	Nebraska 28, LSU 10	1985 Sugar
Jan. 1, 1986	Michigan 27, Nebraska 23	1986 Fiesta
Jan. 1, 1987	Nebraska 30, LSU 15	1987 Sugar
Jan. 1, 1988	Florida State 31, Nebraska 28	1988 Fiesta
Jan. 2, 1989	Miami (FL) 23, Nebraska 3	1989 Orange
Jan. 1, 1990	Florida State 41, Nebraska 17	1990 Fiesta
Jan. 1, 1991	Georgia Tech 45, Nebraska 21	1991 Citrus
Jan. 1, 1992	Miami (FL) 22, Nebraska 0	1992 Orange
Jan. 1, 1993	Florida State 27, Nebraska 14	1993 Orange
Jan. 1, 1994	Florida State 18, Nebraska 16	1994 Orange
Jan. 1, 1995	Nebraska 24, Miami 17	1995 Orange
Jan. 2, 1996	Nebraska 62, Florida 24	1996 Fiesta
Dec. 31, 1996	Nebraska 41, Virginia Tech 21	1997 Orange
Jan. 2, 1998	Nebraska 42, Tennessee 17	1998 Orange
Dec. 30, 1998	Arizona 23, Nebraska 20	1998 Holiday
Jan. 2, 2000	Nebraska 31, Tennessee 21	2000 Fiesta
Dec. 30, 2000	Nebraska 66, Northwestern 17	2000 Alamo
Jan. 3, 2002	Miami (FL) 37, Nebraska 14	2002 Rose Bowl
Dec. 27, 2002	Mississippi 27, Nebraska 23	2002 Independence
Dec. 29, 2003	Nebraska 17, Michigan State 3	2003 Alamo
Dec. 28, 2005	Nebraska 32, Michigan 28	2005 Alamo
Jan. 1, 2007	Auburn 17, Nebraska 14	2007 Cotton
Jan. 1, 2009	Nebraska 26, Clemson 21	2009 Gator
Dec. 30, 2009	Nebraska 33, Arizona 0	2009 Holiday
Dec. 30, 2010	Washington 19, Nebraska 7	2010 Holiday
Jan. 2, 2012	South Carolina 30, Nebraska 13	2012 Capital One
Jan. 1, 2013	Georgia 45, Nebraska 31	2013 Capital One
Jan. 1, 2014	Nebraska 24, Georgia 19	2014 Gator
Dec. 27, 2014	USC 45, Nebraska 42	2014 Holiday

# Catching up with **JOHN O'LEARY**

Running Back 1971-1975

By Butch Rasmussen/Huskers Illustrated

John O'Leary carries the ball during his time at NU from 1971-75.



Huskers Illustrated Archives

The score was 10-7 Huskers that November afternoon in 1975.

It was fourth and a few and the Huskers were near the Missouri 40 yard line in punt formation. It was a short snap to fullback Tony Davis who tucked the ball between John O'Leary's legs from behind.

O'Leary played the part of a lazy tailback who just couldn't get into the game as he held his position for a moment in the middle of the whirling frenzy going on around him. Davis faked a handoff to Monte Anthony moving to his right from the left halfback position and 10 Huskers were showing sweep right.

"GO!" O'Leary was on the run toward the southeast corner of the south endzone at Tiger Stadium in Columbia. Ten Huskers and the whole Missouri team are moving to the west side of the field following Anthony's lead while O'Leary was enjoying a cake walk down the east side with few recognizing perfect deception.

Davis says the Missouri team had no idea where the ball was and they were trying to tackle everyone but O'Leary.

I told O'Leary when I talked with him that the Bummerooski he pulled off with such perfection is stamped permanently into my mind's collection of memorable football offerings.

Want to see video of O'Leary's Bummerooskie at Missouri? Here's the link on You Tube: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMmc\\_eoOc3s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMmc_eoOc3s)

O'Leary came to Nebraska as a highly touted and highly recruited prep All-America out of Port Washington, New York and wasted no time in showing Husker fans he could produce. He broke Joe Orduna's frosh rushing record, and scored seven touchdowns as a freshman, breaking the record of six held jointly by such future Husker luminaries as Jeff Kinney and Johnny Rodgers among others.

I invaded O'Leary's quiet zone while he was sitting on the back porch at his home in Omaha smoking a good cigar.

It's been 39 years since that big play at Mizzou but John still hears from people like this writer who remember watching that play unfold. O'Leary, 60 now, did his share of scoring throughout his Husker career with 16 varsity touchdowns.

John says the Bummerooskie was just a play they ran at practice for fun and he says that day at Missouri coach Tom Osborne told him to go in and call that play in the huddle. He told Osborne the guys wouldn't believe he was serious so he asked the coach to remove his hat or tug at his ear to show the team he meant business. O'Leary ran to the huddle, called the play, Osborne gave them the cue and the rest is Cornhusker football history.

Post Nebraska, O'Leary continued his football career with Montreal in the Canadian Football League where he played in three Grey Cups, winning one. The Grey Cup is the Canadian version of the NFL Super Bowl.

O'Leary continued to build on his reputation as a capable running back as he was named to the Canadian All-Pro team twice and was east division rookie of the year in 1977. He averaged 800 yards rush-



ing over his three-year pro career.

John lives in Omaha today with his wife of 34 years, Peggy. They met during their sophomore year at NU. They have 3 children, including T.J., who played for NU, and 6 grandchildren. O'Leary still enjoys his work as a salesman for charitable gaming products such as pickle cards and bingo papers.

High on John's list of games to remember are the 1973 game versus Minnesota when he got his first start as a sophomore and the Oklahoma game in 1973 when the Huskers were whipped 27-0 by the Sooners. John says that Oklahoma team was the best team he ever played.

You think so? That team had two national championships ahead in 1974 and '75. Ever heard of Tinker Owens, Dewey Selman, Lucious Selman, Lee Roy Selman, Rod Shoate, Jimbo Elrod, Steve Davis or Joe Washington. Those are names for the ages with Oklahoma football. All played in that '73 game against Nebraska. All but Davis were consensus All-Americans during their careers.



John O'Leary is most famous for scoring a TD on the "Bummeroski" against Missouri in 1975.

Huskers Illustrated Archives

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# Nebraska finds itself in similar position as 2013-14

Nebraska began the Big Ten Conference men's basketball season with a couple of unexpected losses, including one that made national headlines because of its stunning nature, and with uncertainty where it fit among its league brethren.

In other words, the Huskers are like many other teams in the Big Ten Conference not named Wisconsin.

The Badgers, with four starters returning from last year's Final Four team, were an overwhelming favorite to win the Big Ten in an October vote of league beat writers, and everything that happened in November or December simply solidified that pick.

It's the rest of the conference's teams, and where they fit, that's greatly muddled after a non-conference season that produced shocking upsets.

Incarnate Word, Eastern Washington, Saint Francis (PA), Gardner-Webb, Texas Southern, Eastern Michigan, Central Michigan and New Jersey Institute of Technology were among teams who were paid good money to travel to Big Ten territory, show up to play a game and take a loss.

Only, they didn't cooperate.

Each of those teams left a Big Ten gym with a victory, over teams picked anywhere from third to last in the preseason writers' poll, shedding some doubt on overall strength of a conference that's been largely regarded as the nation's best in recent seasons.

Even the league's bluebloods weren't immune to upsets. Michigan State lost to Texas Southern. Indiana lost to Eastern Washington. Michigan lost to Eastern Michigan — AND to NJIT, arguably the most stunning and embarrassing of the Big Ten's non-conference losses.

What about Incarnate Word? Well, the Cardinals are a transitioning NCAA Division I team, meaning they aren't eligible yet for the NCAA Tournament, and they



beat Nebraska by one point in Lincoln on Dec. 10. But the Cardinals' RPI, as of the end of December, was 40, which was by far the highest of any of the "no-name" teams that pulled a Big Ten upset.

"Everybody's had these upsets," Nebraska coach Tim Miles said. "You can say the Big Ten has, but you don't have to blink and look at other schools and see these kind of interesting losses. I don't know if it's more parity or what that's finally hitting major college

basketball, but certainly what happened to us and Kansas State (a loss to Texas Southern), where you just hand the game away, it can really hurt you. But it can happen to almost everybody."

While Wisconsin established itself as the Big Ten's best in the non-conference, with its only loss coming to Duke, some other conference teams managed to escape the non-conference without one of those head-scratching, stunning losses.

Maryland, one of the Big Ten's two newcomers, turned in one of the league's more impressive non-conference seasons. Behind freshmen Melo Trimble and Jared Nickens, the Terps have shown so far that their projected finish in the bottom half of the Big Ten was an error in beat writers' judgment.

Ohio State feasted on inferior non-conference competition at home, winning 11 games by an average of 33.2 points. Only because of the Big Ten/ACC Challenge did coach Thad Matta play a true road game, which the Buckeyes lost to Louisville. The other loss came to North Carolina on a neutral court.

Minnesota's most impressive non-conference victory came against Georgia, with losses to Louisville and St. John's. The rest of the non-conference schedule was nothing impressive, but Minnesota didn't stumble against an unknown.

Penn State quietly went 12-1 in the non-conference, including a victory over George Washington, which had a No. 17 RPI at the end of December and won the Diamond Head Classic by beating Wichita State in the title game. But the Nittany Lions produced nine victories over teams with RPIs of 203 and higher.

Illinois beat border rival Missouri on a last-second three-pointer, a neutral-court game that's in a stretch where the Illini is playing 10 of 14 games away from home. No other school among the major six conferences is going through such a stretch this season.

And what do all of the aforementioned teams — Maryland, Ohio State, Minnesota, Penn State and Illinois — have in common after not contributing to the Big Ten's string of embarrassing non-conference losses?

They all lost their conference openers, with Ohio State the only team of that bunch that opened at home.

It's surely just the beginning of a Big Ten season in which the re-





Shavon Shields drives to the basket against Indiana.

sult of any game not involving Wisconsin – and probably some games that do – can’t be considered a shocker, regardless of the result.

Nebraska, meanwhile, finished the nonconference 8-4 – just like it did last season – and lost its conference opener – just like it did last season – while it prepared to play its second-conference game on the road.

Just like last season, when the Huskers went 0-5 to begin Big Ten play before unexpectedly catching fire and finishing in fourth place in the league standings.

That’s where the Huskers were predicted to finish this season, according to the league beat writers, although if do-overs existed, Nebraska would surely be picked to finish among the league’s bottom half, what with the Huskers having already suffered three home losses, or two more than all of last season.

“Obviously,” Miles said, “we need a really strong run in the Big Ten to make the NCAA Tournament.”

It’s not impossible, especially considering the short-handed Huskers are expected to regain the services of forwards Moses Abraham,

#### BIG STANDINGS

<b>Maryland</b>	<b>14-1</b>	<b>2-0</b>
<b>Purdue</b>	<b>10-5</b>	<b>2-0</b>
<b>Indiana</b>	<b>11-3</b>	<b>1-0</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>10-4</b>	<b>1-0</b>
<b>Northwestern</b>	<b>10-4</b>	<b>1-0</b>
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>13-1</b>	<b>1-0</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>8-6</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>Ohio State</b>	<b>12-3</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>Rutgers</b>	<b>9-6</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>Michigan State</b>	<b>9-5</b>	<b>0-1</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>8-5</b>	<b>0-1</b>
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>10-5</b>	<b>0-1</b>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<b>11-4</b>	<b>0-2</b>
<b>Penn State</b>	<b>12-3</b>	<b>0-2</b>

*Through Jan. 3 games*

who’s been out since Dec. 9, when he broke his hand in practice, and Leslee Smith, who hasn’t played this season while recovering from ACL surgery.

Both are expected to return by mid January. Smith has done some drills in practice with the

team and has been suiting and participating in pregame warm-ups since NU’s trip to Hawaii over Christmas.

“There’s no question the harder you push the knee, the more discomfort there is, maybe a little more swelling, but it’s nothing out of the ordinary,” Miles said. “He’s really progressing about as well as a big guy like that can.”

When the big men return, Nebraska will get a boost on its defensive interior, which allowed 38 points in the paint to Indiana, among the Big Ten’s smallest teams, in a 70-65 loss to the Hoosiers to begin Big Ten play. Offensively, they’ll help with overall flow and take pressure off wings Terran Petteway and Shavon Shields, who combined are attempting 50.3 percent of Nebraska’s shot attempts through 14 games.

Whether the return of Abraham and Smith is enough to boost Nebraska to an upper-division Big Ten finish, or make folks forget about that Incarnate Word loss, though remains to be seen.

“By the end of the year, you’re going to see our strength of schedule is really good,” Miles said. “It’s too bad we weren’t better in the non-conference, but here we are.”



## INDIANA 70, NEBRASKA 65

The full rundown from Nebraska's 70-65 loss to Indiana on Dec. 31.

### 2 VIPS

**Terran Petteway:** Petteway led all scorers in the game with 23 points and added eight rebounds in the losing effort. Petteway finished 8-of-19 from the field, and 3-of-6 from 3-point range. Those ratios usually spell a Nebraska win, but it wasn't enough as the Huskers sputtered down the stretch.

**Shavon Shields:** Shields helped Nebraska claw back into the game late in the first half, hitting a jumper that gave Nebraska a lead just after halftime. Shields finished with 20 points and seven rebounds, and again showed why he's overlooked at the conference level.

### 4 QUOTES

– **Terran Petteway on whether Nebraska had lost the Pinnacle Bank Arena magic from a year ago:** "There ain't no mojo, we just have to come out and play basketball," Petteway said. "There ain't no mojo in basketball."

– **Tim Miles on his team's effort:** "I think we played at their pace too much (in the first half)," Miles said. "Anytime you're going to miss against Indiana right at the rim, they are going to make you pay. They really got us in transition. They really hurt us and were able to build the lead. I told the players at halftime, 'wishing and hoping isn't going to get you a 'W', you have to go out and earn it. We have to play our game.' I thought Coach Crean did a great job of changing defenses. We saw the same defense last year, and we attacked it. We planned for it, we practiced

Benny Parker goes up for a shot against Indiana.





## 2014-15 Men's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 6, 2014	SW Minnesota (Exh)	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 83-61
Nov. 16, 2014	Northern Kentucky	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 80-61
Nov. 18, 2014	Central Arkansas	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 82-56
Nov. 22, 2014	at Rhode Island	Kingston, R.I.	L, 66-62 OT
Nov. 25, 2014	Nebraska-Omaha	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 80-67
Nov. 28, 2014	Tennessee-Martin	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 75-64
Dec. 1, 2014	at Florida State	Tallahassee, Fla.	W, 70-65
Dec. 7, 2014	Creighton	Pinnacle Bank Arena	L, 65-55
Dec. 10, 2014	Incarnate Word	Pinnacle Bank Arena	L, 74-73
Dec. 13, 2014	Cincinnati	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 56-55 OT
Dec. 22, 2014	at Hawaii	Honolulu, Hawaii	L, 66-58
Dec. 23, 2014	Loyola Marymount	Honolulu, Hawaii	W, 50-42 OT
Dec. 25, 2014	Ohio	Honolulu, Hawaii	W, 71-58
Dec. 31, 2014	Indiana *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	L, 70-65
Jan. 5, 2015	at Iowa *	Iowa City, Iowa	8 p.m.
Jan. 8, 2015	Rutgers *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Jan. 11, 2015	Illinois *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 15, 2015	at Wisconsin *	Madison, Wisconsin	8 p.m.
Jan. 20, 2015	Minnesota *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 24, 2015	Michigan State *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	TBA
Jan. 27, 2015	at Michigan *	Ann Arbor, Mich.	6 p.m.
Jan. 31, 2015	at Minnesota *	Minneapolis, Minn.	5 p.m.
Feb. 3, 2015	Northwestern *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 7, 2015	at Penn State *	State College, Penn.	3 p.m.
Feb. 10, 2015	Wisconsin *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Feb. 15, 2015	at Purdue *	West Lafayette, Ind.	4:15 p.m.
Feb. 19, 2015	at Maryland *	College Park, Md.	6 p.m.
Feb. 22, 2015	Iowa *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	TBA
Feb. 26, 2015	at Ohio State *	Columbus, Ohio	6 p.m.
March 4, 2015	at Illinois *	Champaign, Ill.	9 p.m.
March 8, 2015	Maryland *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	TBA
March 11, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 12, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 13, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 14, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 15, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 17, 2015	NCAA Tournament	TBA	TBA
*	Conference Games		

against it and looked good in practice. That's why you never trust practice."

– **Shavon Shields on the team's offensive struggles:** "We didn't finish possessions," Shields said. "Once we finish possessions, we got transition after transition and we stopped getting stops and getting rebounds and that kind of killed our transition and killed our flow. Like Terran said we just need to put a full game together and just get stop after stop. Like what our identity is and just kind of play through it."

– **Tim Miles on his team's run in the second half:** "I thought we were playing good basketball," Miles said. "We weren't allow-

ing them transition. We were guarding the ball better. We were locked in more defensively. The way you beat Indiana is you have to guard the ball. That gives them less threes and less chance for an offensive rebound."

### 7 NOTES AND THOUGHTS

– The backbreaker for Nebraska came less than three minutes into the game when Walter Pitchford went to the bench with his second foul of the game. Nebraska was already painfully thin at the position, and was even more so with Pitchford on the bench. With Pitchford out, Indiana attacked the paint, and had Nebraska chasing on defense. It didn't help matters that Nebraska was out-rebounded 26-14 in the first half. Moses Abraham and Leslee Smith can't get on the floor fast enough.

– Did Nebraska playing close games in the non-conference season help against Indiana? It might have. Nebraska trailed by as many as 16 late in the first half, but the Huskers didn't panic and closed the gap to eight heading into the locker room. Nebraska came out of the locker room just as hot, making four of its first six shots to take a 43-42 lead on a jumper by Shavon Shields. Despite all of Nebraska's struggles, the Huskers kept chipping away.

– Nebraska took the lead early in the second half, but later in the frame it looked like the comeback had taken quite a bit out of the Huskers. Indiana was able to take the lead late, and extended it to double digits with less than five minutes remaining, especially as Indiana was once again able to get into the paint on the strength of Mosquera-Perea, who finished 12 points and 10 rebounds.

– How much is Nebraska missing Moses Abraham and Leslee Smith? The Huskers were out-rebounded 44-31 by Indiana, and out-scored 38-26 in the paint. Indiana's 12 offensive rebounds resulted in 13 second-chance points. That's going to be a tough way to live in the Big Ten until Nebraska's injured bigs can return to the lineup.

– Nebraska fell to 0-4 in Big Ten Conference openers – that's every year the Huskers have been in the conference. Nebraska's last conference-opening win came in the final year in the Big 12 against Iowa State.

– Nebraska should expect to see a bit more pressure from Big Ten teams going forward. The Huskers showed in Hawaii that they couldn't consistently handle full-court pressure. Against Indiana, the Hoosiers used pressure in spots to throw off Nebraska's rhythm, including a spot in the second half where the Huskers committed a 10-second violation against marginal pressure.

– There's no doubt that Shields and Petteway are always going to be the horses offensively for Nebraska this year. There are only so many shots to go around. But Nebraska needs to find more options offensively to pair with its duo. At times Indiana wasn't even guarding Benny Parker or David Rivers on the perimeter. Nebraska's players on the floor not named Shields or Parker were 8-for-22 in the game. Take Pitchford out and it's 4-for-14.

Emily Cady drives to the basket against Alcorn State earlier this season.



# CADY'S COURT

## Seward senior steps up offensively

STORY BY LANNY HOLSTEIN | PHOTO BY MITCH OTTO

Nebraska's second-leading scorer doesn't think of herself as an offensive threat. In fact, senior forward Emily Cady says she is finally starting to take more shots after coming into Nebraska and spending much of her college career as a pass-first player.

"In high school, I think I averaged maybe nine points per game," Cady said. "I was always a pass-first person, thinking that other people could shoot better and stuff like that."



Husker coach Connie Yori got to work on that as soon as Cady became a Husker. The Nebraska coach saw the potential in her 6-foot-2 wing and saw to it that Cady felt comfortable putting the ball in the hoop.

"I still don't shoot a lot, and she keeps encouraging me to shoot," Cady said of Yori. "She has faith in me that I never had, so she is starting to bring that out of me. I never thought of myself as a good scorer, and she's brought that out of me throughout these years."

Cady averages 13.6 points per game this season, second only to Rachel Theriot's 18.3 per game on the team. Still, Yori wants more from Cady.

"There are times I can remember, and she still does, where she gets mad at me because I won't shoot open shots," Cady said. "I'll be wide open and decide to pass it, and she used to get so mad at me for that."

Yori and Cady have a special bond. It's a relationship that's built over four seasons of blood, sweat and tears on and off the basketball court.

"Coach Yori has meant a lot," Cady said. "She can be hard on me and stuff in practice, but I know she's just trying to make me a better person. She always strives for greatness in that aspect. She always pushes us, but she never pushes us too far. She knows our breaking point."

Yori's put together an offensive basketball team that doesn't rely on any one option for its scoring. The team has five players scoring over seven points per game, and it goes even deeper than that.

"I think that's what makes us such a great team," Cady said. "Tee (Laudermill) can be shooting well one night, and everyone will be guarding her the next game. Rachel (Theriot) always gets guarded tight, so it will leave someone open like Haley down on the block or something like that. It helps to have so many offensive weapons."

Again, Cady doesn't feel like she is one of the main cogs in the offense. Although she's been extremely successful, the forward thinks her points come off relaxed defense.

"For the most part, I don't think they guard me as tight," she said. "I mean, I'm usually guarded by a post player. I feel like I can take advantage in those kind of scenarios."

Cady also takes advantage on the glass. She leads the Huskers in rebounding with 9.1 boards per game and takes pride in that aspect of the game. It's always been a place Cady has shined.

"Rebounding is a big part of the game, and it's always nice to get those offensive rebounds, those extra opportunities," she said. "When we get a defensive rebound, we get the chance to push on offense, so rebounding is a very important part of the game. I take that very seriously."

This is Cady's final season as a Husker. She's a part of a class that hasn't missed the NCAA tournament it's entire career and doesn't plan on doing so this season.

"It's been a lot of fun," Cady said. "I wouldn't go anywhere else. Looking back, I wouldn't change my decision about coming to Nebraska. It's been one of the greatest decisions I've ever made."

## 2014-15 Women's Basketball Schedule

Nov. 2, 2014	Wayne State (Exh)	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 84-43
Nov. 9, 2014	Concordia-St. Paul (Exh)	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 78-46
Nov. 15, 2014	Pepperdine	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 100-65
Nov. 16, 2014	Alcorn State	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 83-49
Nov. 19, 2014	at Washington State	Pullman, Wash.	W, 82-61
Nov. 23, 2014	Utah	Bob Devaney Center	W, 66-43
Nov. 28, 2014	at UCLA	Los Angeles, Calif.	W, 71-66
Nov. 30, 2014	Northern Colorado	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 63-56
Dec. 3, 2014	Duke	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 60-54
Dec. 7, 2014	at Alabama	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	L, 53-51
Dec. 11, 2014	at Creighton	Omaha, Neb.	W, 60-57
Dec. 13, 2014	Bakersfield	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 54-45
Dec. 20, 2014	High Point	Pinnacle Bank Arena	W, 83-57
Dec. 29, 2014	at Minnesota *	Minneapolis, Minn.	L, 72-69
Jan. 3, 2015	Maryland *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	L, 75-47
Jan. 8, 2015	at Michigan State *	East Lansing, Mich.	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 11, 2015	at Illinois *	Champaign, Illinois	2 p.m.
Jan. 15, 2015	Penn State *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	6 p.m.
Jan. 19, 2015	Purdue *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	6 p.m.
Jan. 22, 2015	at Wisconsin *	Madison, Wisconsin	7 p.m.
Jan. 26, 2015	at Iowa *	Iowa City, Iowa	8 p.m.
Jan. 29, 2015	Illinois *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	7 p.m.
Feb. 1, 2015	Michigan *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	2 p.m.
Feb. 5, 2015	at Rutgers *	Piscataway, N.J.	6 p.m.
Feb. 8, 2015	at Maryland *	College Park, MD	3 p.m.
Feb. 12, 2015	Iowa *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	8 p.m.
Feb. 15, 2015	Wisconsin *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	2 p.m.
Feb. 18, 2015	at Northwestern *	Evanston, Illinois	7 p.m.
Feb. 21, 2015	at Indiana *	Bloomington, Ind.	TBA
Feb. 24, 2015	Minnesota *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	8 p.m.
March 1, 2015	Ohio State *	Pinnacle Bank Arena	TBA
March 4, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 5, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 6, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 7, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 8, 2015	Big Ten Tournament	Chicago, Ill.	TBA
March 20, 2015	NCAA Tournament	TBA	TBA
*	Conference Games		

## NEBRASKA CAREER REBOUNDING LEADERS

1. Janet Smith (1979-82).....1,280
2. Jordan Hooper (2011-14).....1,110
3. Kelsey Griffin (2006-10) .....1,019
4. Karen Jennings (1990-93) .....1,000
5. Emily Cady (2012-present).....910

# Huskers start conference play with two-straight loses

*Story Courtesy of NU Sports Information*

No. 12 Nebraska was tied with No. 14 Maryland at the half, but the Huskers went ice cold in the second half, and the Terrapins ran away with a 75-47 women's basketball win Saturday at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

Playing in front of more than 7,500 fans and a CBS national television audience in Nebraska's Big Ten home opener, NU slipped to 10-3 overall and 0-2 in the Big Ten. Maryland improved to 11-2 and 2-0 in the conference. Nebraska also saw its 12-game home winning streak come to an end, dating back to last season.

The Huskers battled to a 27-27 tie with the Terps at halftime, but Maryland used a 13-2 surge in the first four minutes of the second half to take a 40-29 lead after a Lexie Brown jumper.

Nebraska trimmed the Maryland margin back to eight points at 46-38 with 11:19 left, before the Terps erupted on another 13-2 surge to take a 19-point lead at 59-40 after a Laurin Mincy three with 7:45 remaining.

Nebraska would get no closer than 17 the rest of the way, as Hailie Sample briefly stopped the surge with NU's first field goal in 5:40 to make it 59-42. Maryland closed the game with its biggest lead of the night at 28 points.

"We lost to a good team today. Maryland is pretty talented. We could've played better in the second half," Nebraska Coach Connie Yori said. "I call these the elephant games, where you play against super-athletic teams. The two things you really have to do, you really have to take care of the ball, and you really have to defensive rebound. Early in the second half, we didn't do either of those and the game got away from us."

Shatori Walker-Kimbrough finished with game highs of 24 points and nine rebounds, while hitting 10-of-13 shots from the floor for the Terps. However, it was senior guard Laurin Mincy who did the most damage for Maryland in the second half, scoring 20 of her 22 points after the break. Those were the only two Terps in double figures on the night, as Lexie Brown added nine points, five rebounds and a team-best six assists.

"First of all, we love coming here. To come in here is awesome with their fans for Nebraska are just tremendous," Maryland Coach Brenda Frese said. "This is a big-time college environment with a team like this, it was really loud tonight. I thought Nebraska came out really strong and aggressive. I thought the difference from the first half to the second half was our defense and our rebounding."

Brandi Jeffery dribbles during a game earlier this season.



Mitch Otto/Huskers Illustrated

Maryland shot 55.9 percent (19-34) in the second half and outrebounded Nebraska by 16 in the second half. The Terps also won the second-half turnover battle, 6-5.

Rachel Theriot and Tear'a Laudermill were the only two Huskers in double figures with 12 points apiece, but the duo combined to go 9-for-35 from the floor against a solid Terrapin defense. The Terps also held NU's second-leading scorer on the season - Emily Cady - to just six points on 1-of-8 shooting from the floor.

Senior guard Brandi Jeffery added eight points for the Huskers on the night, with all eight of those coming in the first half for NU.

The Huskers hit just 20.7 percent (6-29) of their second-half shots, including just 2-of-9 threes. NU was a perfect 6-for-6 at the foul line in the second half, but the Huskers managed just 20 total points in the second half.

The two teams went to the locker room tied at 27 at the half, after a last-second layup by Sample off a highlight-reel assist from Theriot,

who finished the game with seven assists. It was Sample's only score of the half, while she added three rebounds, including two offensive rebounds on NU's final possession of the half.

Jeffery led the Huskers with eight first-half points on 4-of-8 shooting, while adding a pair of rebounds. Laudermill pitched in seven points, including NU's lone three of the half, while grabbing three boards and adding an assist.

Theriot managed six points, three rebounds, three assists and one steal, while Cady contributed four points and five rebounds but went just 1-for-5 from the floor.

As a team, Nebraska hit just 34.3 percent (12-35) of its first-half shots, including 1-of-3 threes. NU also hit both of its free throws, and outrebounded Maryland, 19-17 in the opening period. The Huskers also won the turnover battle, 10-6.

Maryland hit 45.8 percent (11-24) of its first-half shots, but just 1-of-7 three-pointers. The Terps were also 4-for-4 at the free throw



line.

Walker-Kimbrough led the Terps with 18 points on 8-of-9 shooting in the opening half, as the only Maryland player to hit more than one shot from the floor. Brown added Maryland's lone three of the half, while Mincy, Kiara Leslie and Tierney Pfirman each pitched in two points.

Maryland starting center Brionna Jones played just three first-half minutes after picking up two fouls and did not attempt a shot from the floor or get a rebound. In the second half, Jones had six points, three rebounds and three assists in 13 minutes.

### MINNESOTA 72, NEBRASKA 69

A short-handed No. 12 Nebraska women's basketball team led by 14 points with 7:50 left at Minnesota, but the Golden Gophers erupted on a 13-0 run in the next 3:40 then completed the comeback with a 72-69 win at Williams Arena on Monday night.

The Huskers slipped to 11-2 on the season while dropping their Big Ten opener for the first time in four seasons. Minnesota improved to 12-1 and 1-0 in the conference.

Nebraska, which led by as many as 17 points after a three-point play by Emily Cady with 10:14 left in the game, carried a 61-47 edge after Cady's seventh straight point with 7:50 left. Cady, a 6-2 forward from Seward, Neb., finished with her sixth double-double of the year with 21 points and 14 rebounds while playing the full 40 minutes.

However, she did not score the rest of the way, and Nebraska managed just eight points in the final 7:49.

"We got great shots down the stretch, we just need to make some of them," Nebraska Coach Connie Yori said. "Obviously, it didn't help us that we only had seven healthy players tonight, but we have an experienced team and we just needed to make a few more plays to win that game."

The Huskers lost to the Gophers on the road despite making four more field goals and out-rebounding Minnesota, 59-46.

Cady finished with 21 points and 14 rebounds, while going 10-of-14 from the floor.

Junior point guard Rachel Theriot added 18 points and 10 assists for her fifth career double-double and first of the season, while playing the full 40 minutes, as Nebraska dressed only six scholarship players and freshman walk-on Emily Wood because of injuries and illness. Theriot went just 9-for-27 from the floor though, including 0-for-3 from three-point range.

Senior Tear'a Lauderhill pitched in 14

### BIG STANDINGS

Minnesota	13-1	2-0
Northwestern	12-1	2-0
Maryland	11-2	2-0
Iowa	10-2	1-0
Indiana	11-2	1-1
Rutgers	10-3	1-1
Michigan	9-4	1-1
Purdue	8-5	1-1
Ohio State	9-5	1-1
Wisconsin	5-7	1-1
Nebraska	10-3	0-2
Illinois	9-4	0-1
Michigan State	7-5	0-2
Penn State	3-10	0-2

*Through Jan. 3 games*

points, including NU's only four three-pointers on the night, but Lauderhill went just 4-for-15 while the Big Red hit just 4-of-22 threes on the night. Brandi Jeffery went 0-for-2 from long range and just 1-of-6 from the field overall, but did contribute a career-high 16 rebounds to go along with four assists to help the Huskers build the 17-point lead.

Sophomore Allie Havers added a season-high 10 points on 5-of-12 shooting, while pitching in five rebounds off the bench.

Havers saw a majority of her time because of foul trouble for senior forward Hailie Sample, who fouled out with 3:50 left. It was just the third time in 112 career games that Sample fouled out. Sample finished with four points and nine rebounds in just 22 minutes.

For the game, Nebraska hit just 37 percent (30-81) of its shots from the floor, including just 18.2 percent (4-22) of its three-point attempts. The Huskers still outshot the Gophers overall, as Minnesota hit just 34.2 percent (26-76) of its field goal attempts, including 6-of-25 (24 percent) of its threes. However, Minnesota hit 14-of-17 free throws to outscore the Big Red 14-5 at the line.

Amanda Zahui B. led Minnesota with 20 points, 15 rebounds, four blocked shots and three steals, while light-scoring point guard Shayne Mullaney pitched in a season-high 18 points. Mullaney carried the Gophers with 12 points in the first half.

Kayla Hirt added 11 points, while Carlie Wagner contributed 10 points, including six of the first nine points in Minnesota's 13-0 second-half surge.

Shae Kelley, who was held to just seven points on 1-of-11 shooting for the game by the Huskers, scored four points in the final 1:12 to complete the comeback for Minnesota. Her

two with 1:12 left cut NU's lead to 67-66, before Mullaney gave the Gophers their first lead of the night at 68-67 with 32 seconds left. Kelley then added two free throws with 17.2 seconds left to push the lead to 70-67.

Havers got a putback for the Huskers to make it 70-64 with 8.4 seconds left, before Zahui B. sealed the win with a pair of free throws with 6.1 seconds remaining. Nebraska did not get a clean look at the basket in the closing seconds.

Nebraska used a 10-0 run early in the game to take a 12-2 lead, then closed the half on a 10-2 surge to take its biggest lead of the period at 39-26 at halftime.

Cady and Theriot controlled the first half for the Big Red, with Cady nearly producing a double-double with 12 points, eight boards and two assists in the half. Theriot added 12 points of her own to go along with five assists and a pair of rebounds.

Jeffery also contributed huge first-half minutes, as the 5-7 senior guard ripped down nine rebounds to go along with two points and three assists. Jeffery and Sample, who pitched in four points and six rebounds in the half, helped the Big Red outrebound the Gophers, 32-20, in the opening period. That margin grew to plus-17 rebounds midway through the second half, before the Gophers narrowed it down the stretch.

Lauderhill pumped in seven first-half points, including a pair of three-pointers, to help the Huskers hit 43.6 percent (17-39) from the floor, including 2-of-7 threes. NU also went 3-for-4 from the free throw line, while holding Minnesota without a trip to line by committing just two personal fouls.

Nebraska held Minnesota to just 27.5 percent (11-40) shooting, including 4-of-17 threes. Mullaney led the Gophers with a season-high 12 points in the first half alone, going 5-of-7 from the floor. But the rest of the Gophers went just 6-for-33. Mullaney was the only Gopher to manage double figures in the half, while Hirt five points on 2-of-5 shooting off the bench. Zahui B. had just four points on 2-of-5 shooting in the first half, before bouncing back with 16 points on 5-of-6 shooting after the break.

Nebraska returns to Lincoln for its Big Ten home opener when the Huskers take on No. 14 Maryland on Jan. 3 Tip-Off between the Big Red and the No. 15 Terrapins is set for 3 p.m., with tickets available now at Huskers.com.

Maryland, which advanced to the 2014 NCAA Women's Final Four, opened Big Ten play with an 87-78 win over Ohio State on Monday night to improve to 10-2 overall while winning its first-ever Big Ten Conference game.

## WRESTLING

Senior All-Americans Robert Kokesh and James Green each captured weight class titles at the Southern Scuffle at McKenzie Arena this past Friday.

The Huskers finished fourth as a team with 116 points. Four-time defending national champion Penn State took home the team title with 165 points, while Missouri (150) and Oklahoma State (135.5) also notched top-three finishes.

Kokesh, the top-ranked wrestler at 174 pounds, completed his tournament run with a 3-2 decision over No. 4 Matt Brown of Penn State in the finals. Over the course of the Southern Scuffle, Kokesh collected three pins and one major decision. He improved to 21-0 on the season and won his third tournament title.

Green, the No. 1 seed at 157 pounds, took down Jason Nolf of Penn State in the finals by a 7-4 margin. Green's performance at the tournament included one pin and two major decisions over the span of five matches. He is now 18-1 this season and won his second tournament title of the 2014-15 campaign.

No. 20 Anthony Abidin took third place at 141 pounds after a 6-1 showing during the two-day event. No. 17 Tim Lambert placed fifth with a 6-2 record at the Southern Scuffle. Unattached wrestler Tyler Berger (149) earned a sixth-place finish at the tournament, while 184-pounder TJ Dudley finished eighth.

Eric Montoya (133), Justin Arthur (149), Austin Wilson (165), Aaron Studebaker (184), Spencer Johnson (197), Micah Barnes (197) and Collin Jensen (HWT) also competed for the Huskers at the Southern

Paula Del Cueto Castillo will join the NU women's tennis team for the 2015-16 season.



Courtesy NU Sports Information

Scuffle. Dustin Williams (165) and Derek White (197) each wrestled unattached at the tournament.

The Huskers return home to host Purdue Jan. 9 at the Devaney Center.

## TRACK & FIELD

The Nebraska track and field season will begin with the Holiday Inn Invitational Jan. 16 at the Devaney Center Indoor Track.

Coach Gary Pepin will lead the Husker program for the 35th straight season, as the Huskers look to build on top-three finishes for both the men and women at both Big Ten meets last season.

Four 2014 first-team All-Americans and three 2014 Big Ten champions return to lead the Huskers in 2015. Ellie Ewre was an outdoor triple jump first-team All-American, while Jazmin McCoy was an outdoor long jump first-team All-American. The men's 4x400 indoor relay team (Ricco Hall, Cody Rush, Drew Wiseman, Levi Gipson) and outdoor relay team (Jacob Bender, Rush, Wiseman, Gipson) were first-

team All-Americans in 2014, placing second at the NCAA Indoor Championships and sixth at the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

The Huskers open the indoor season with five straight meets at the Devaney Center Indoor Track, although only four are officially home meets. After the Holiday Inn Invitational on Jan. 16-17, the Huskers are at Devaney for the Nebraska Wesleyan Invitational on Jan. 23, and for the Mark Colligan Memorial on Jan. 24. NU hosts the Adidas Classic on Jan. 31 and the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational Feb. 6-7. Following the Nebraska Tune-Up on Feb. 20, the Huskers will head to the Big Ten Indoor Championships Feb. 27-28 in Geneva, Ohio and the NCAA Indoor Championships March 13-14 in Fayetteville, Ark.

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Nebraska women's tennis team welcomes one new face to the 2014-15 roster and another that is set to join the 2015-16 squad. One recruit, Macarena Olivares, signed a National Letter of Intent back

in the fall of 2013 and will now begin her career as a Husker early in January for the 2015 spring campaign. The second recruit, Paula Del Cueto Castillo, also signed her National Letter of Intent and is set to join the NU squad in the fall of 2015.

A native of Santiago, Chile, Olivares signed her NLI last fall in anticipation to join the Nebraska roster in the 2014-15 season. Olivares topped the U18 Rankings in Chile at No. 1 while also climbing to No. 58 in the ITF Junior World rankings. Olivares peaked at No. 578 in the WTA Women's World rankings. Olivares is an extremely talented commit that is expected to become a strong competitor for the Huskers in the next few years.

"We are very fortunate to have Macarena join our Husker family," Assistant Coach German Dalmagro said. "She is a tremendous competitor and a great athlete. She is someone that will help us right away and will compete hard every day for the team. I have known her for a few years now, and besides being an outstanding player, she is a great person with high character and integrity that will fit in very well in our team."

"We are certainly honored to have such a tremendously gifted athlete joining our Husker family next year," Head Coach Scott Jacobson said. "Macarena has already proven the ability to play with people at the highest levels. Her ITF highest junior ranking of 58 and best WTA world ranking of 578 are a testament of the ability level that Macarena brings to our program. Not only has Macarena proven to be one of the best juniors in the world, but also has had incredible success against those attempting the professional tour. Coach Dalmagro did an amazing job and played the lead role in help-



ing us land this talented future Husker. We know with Macarena we are not only getting a tremendous tennis player, but also a person of great integrity, and character.”

Castillo, a Sevilla, Spain native, is a decorated athlete who will play an immediate role in the singles and doubles lineups when she arrives in the fall of 2015. Castillo notched a No. 929 spot on WTA professional doubles ranking while also climbing to No. 90 ranking in the Spain Open division as well as a No. 35 ranking in the Spain junior division. Castillo earned first place finishes in junior doubles in Andalucia, 2013, as well as the WTA doubles tournament in Valladolid, 2014.

“It is certainly an honor to have someone of Paula’s ability coming to compete for our husker family,” said Head Coach Scott Jacobson. “I believe she will have an incredibly positive impact on our program both as a player and a person. We feel privileged and grateful she and her family have entrusted us with her future.”

“We are very excited to welcome Paula to our Husker family,” Assistant Coach German Dalmagro said. “She will be a great addition to our program and will make an immediate positive impact on our team. We are happy she chose Nebraska as the school to continue her education and her dream to continue to play professional tennis after college. She is a very talented player, with great doubles skills, works very hard, and has a great future ahead of her. We are delighted by her commitment to Nebraska”

The Huskers are set to open their season on Jan. 24 against Air force and Army at the Nebraska Tennis Complex.

# 10 questions

with Anthony Abidin  
Junior Wrestler



## 1 How did you decide on junior college?

AA: Coming out of high school, I didn’t have the most successful career. I didn’t win state or anything like that. I only went to state once, and my academics weren’t in the best order. I didn’t know how far wrestling was going to take me, so I decided to go to junior college. The coach was my club coach, and he said that if I could win the junior college national title, I could transfer out and go somewhere else.

## 3 So would you say that’s your goal, to win a national title?

AA: 100 percent.

## 4 What’s been the key for you this year?

AA: Instilling more trust in my technique, more trust in myself. My biggest problem last year was that I would let my mind get the best of me, looking at rankings or looking at a person and not wrestling my match. Those were the times where I would not wrestle to my potential. This year I trust in my training. I trust in my partners.

## 5 What does it mean to you to be a starter at 141 pounds?

AA: Yeah, 100 percent. It’s more of an honor to be a part of this program, to be able to be called a starter, especially when we have our dual meets. Walking out hearing the people clapping and cheering is really cool. I’m going to do everything I can to have success and show them what I got.

## 7 Explain what you mean by “funky.”

AA: I can put myself in a variety of different situations where normal wrestling moves, I can kind of counter them. Like this past weekend, my opponent had my leg up in the air and thought he was going to take me down. I kind of did a front flip under his legs, pulled his leg over, and he didn’t score on me.

## 8 What’s the best part about wrestling?

AA: The competition and the individual attention. It goes back to my coaching and training, but I was the one on the mat. I was the one grinding, doing what I had to do. I love to compete. Put anything in front of me that I’m not good at, I will find a way to get good at it just so that I can win.

## 9 Are you planning on staying around here or going back home after you’re done at Nebraska?

AA: “Oh, I am 100 percent not moving back home after I graduate. That’s been set in stone. That’s not my atmosphere any more. It’s not bad experiences, but it’s more temptations, not a good place to live nowadays. I’m either going to stay in Nebraska or wherever my occupation takes me.

## 2 How did you decide on Nebraska?

AA: I was getting a couple offers, and every coach was telling me that I was going to win the national title next year, but I’m a realistic person. Do I have the skill set to win a national title? Yes I do. Do I think I could have done that the year after junior college? Not necessarily, but the coaches here trusted me and told me the truth. They told me they would give me the tools to win a national title.

## 6 How would you describe your wrestling style?

AA: I guess energetic, non-stop, and funky.

## 10 How different is Nebraska than back home?

AA: They are polar opposites, Lincoln being a little city. I look at Lincoln as being more of a town than a city where I come from. I like it. I like the slowed down pace and the countryside. I’ve had a couple opportunities to work on a farm with my teammates, and I think this is a better suit for me.

—As interviewed by Huskers Illustrated’s Lanny Holstein



## Lubach takes long route to become Husker



**TANNER LUBACH DID NOT WANT TO GO TO JUNIOR COLLEGE. HE WANTED TO BE A HUSKER. FOR THE LINCOLN SOUTHWEST GRADUATE, THOSE TWO WISHES DID NOT GO TO-**

**GETHER ACCORDING TO THEN-HUSKER COACH MIKE ANDERSON. ANDERSON TOLD LUBACH HE NEEDED A FEW SEASONS AT A TWO-YEAR SCHOOL TO BE READY FOR THE BIG TIME.**

"I didn't really want to do that at first," Lubach said. "I took a look around at a couple places, and then I originally committed to Illinois State, a Missouri Valley school back then, then things kind of fell through with them. When Anderson got fired and coach (Darin) Erstad got hired, I kind of reevaluated things. I wanted to try and go there."

Erstad's staff thought Lubach needed to go the junior college route as well, so the local kid headed off to Hutchinson Community College in Kansas, but it didn't take long before Nebraska came a knocking.

"I talked with coach Bolt and Coach Erstad just to make sure I was doing the right thing in order to put myself in a position to get to Nebraska eventually," Lubach said. "I stayed in contact with coach Bolt throughout the fall, and then there I was getting an offer from Nebraska in October of 2011."

Lubach played his one and only season at "Hutch," as he calls it, already knowing he had a landing spot back home in Lincoln the following season. He hit .383 with 13 home runs and 18 doubles that season.

"It was great," he said. "All these other guys were

playing in the spring still trying to find a place to go. For me, it was a chance to get better and put myself in position to transition to the Division I level."

In his first couple seasons as a Husker, Lubach hasn't reached the same level of offensive output as he did as a Blue Dragon, but he's garnered the starting catcher spot and is working on his swing.

"That's one of the things that I'd like to see come out again is more doubles and home runs," he said. "Obviously, that's not something that you want to focus on. They're going to come. I like where I'm at right now with my swing. I think I made some strides this fall to get back to having a little more juice."

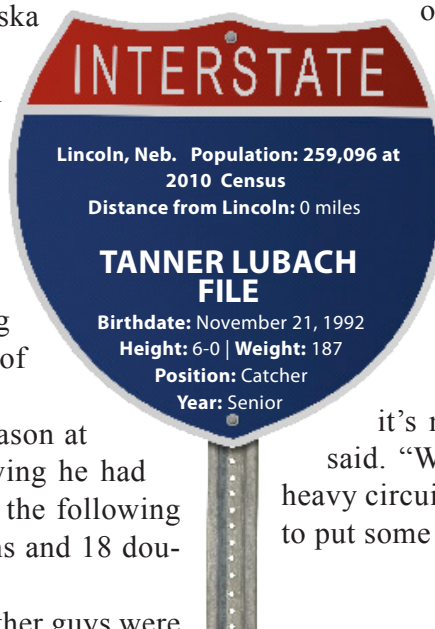
With Lubach it's about more than raw power. Standing at 6-foot and 187 pounds, he admits that he's not one of those guys like Indiana's Kyle Schwarber who could muscle balls out.

"A lot of it comes down to bat speed," Lubach said. "Some guys either have the bat speed through the zone or they don't. As big as you are or as small as you are, it comes down to bat speed. I mean, look at some of the smaller guys in the big leagues.

They don't just hit them because they are huge. You have guys like Dustin Pedroia hitting bombs."

Nebraska hired longtime football strength coach Boyd Epley back to the program involving him primarily in baseball this past year. He's one reason to expect more power, according to Lubach.

"He's helping us out quite a bit, and it's nice to have him around," the catcher said. "We've been going through some pretty heavy circuit lifting that I have enjoyed, just trying to put some size on and get that strength back."



~ Story by Lanny Holstein





Michael Bruntz/Huskers Illustrated

Tanner Lubach prepares to throw the ball to first base.

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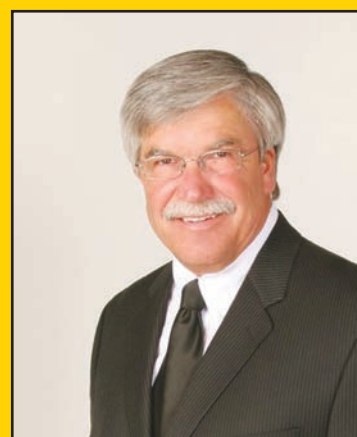
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MLS

# Coaches Corner

with Dan Kendig

Head Women's Gymnastics Coach



Huskers Illustrated reporter Lanny Holstein recently visited with NU women's gymnastics coach Dan Kendig, who has been the leaders of the Husker program since 1993. Nebraska opens its season against Lindenwood on Jan. 9 as part of the Tumble 'N Rumble at the Devaney Center.

**HI:** You start ranked 9th in the coaches' poll. What's your outlook for this season?

**DK:** Well, I'm excited. We finished the season last year in sixth place, and the team's worked really hard this first semester, but we are actually, probably a little deeper. We lost some quality seniors last year, but at the same time, we have some kids who have stepped up. I like where we're at.

**HI:** You return a pair of All-Americans. What kind of base do they give you?

**DK:** I think quite a bit. They are great athletes and great competitors. Jesse (Deziel) and Holly (Blanske) are both going to be big players for us and a big reason for the success of the team, but we are going to need everybody. I think everybody is coming along really well, and the chemistry seems to be good. That's a huge plus.

**HI:** How strong is the schedule you have assembled?

**DK:** The Big Ten keeps getting stronger and stronger, so that gets more difficult, but we have six home meets, so that's a real plus for our local fans to be able to see us. On top of that, we are going to Michigan, and they are the ones hosting the Big Tens, so that will be good to go out there and get the team acclimated. Of course, we have a great meet to UCLA that will be challenging too.

**HI:** You guys have meets at Rutgers and at UCLA. Does that help in recruiting to be seen on both coasts?

**DK:** I think so. I think even just in the Big Ten, you are going from Nebraska and Minnesota all the way to the East Coast, so you are really taking up a lot of the territory. We try to recruit a lot in region three, four and five in the age group programs, which are those states, but we also have some kids from California. I think it's good.

**HI:** What role does Emily Wong serve on the coaching staff?

**DK:** I think she's done a great job for us in her career. She wasn't ready to be done with gymnastics, so she gives us a spark. She's been helping out on beam, a little bit on floor, and really pretty much anywhere we need her. She just has high energy and is very positive. Sometimes she can do things that are very good for the team. She's been through it, and they will listen to her.

## This Week



## Husker Athletics

### Thursday, Jan. 8

#### *Women's Basketball*

Michigan State at East Lansing, Mich. at 7:30 p.m.

#### *Men's Basketball*

Rutgers at Pinnacle Bank Arena. at 8 p.m.

### Friday, Jan. 9

#### *Wrestling & Women's Gymnastics*

Tumble N Rumble at Devaney Center at 7 p.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 10

#### *Women's Swimming & Diving*

Florida Gulf Coast at Fort Myers, Fla. at 10 a.m.

### Sunday, Jan. 11

#### *Women's Basketball*

Illinois at Champaign, Ill. at 2 p.m.

#### *Men's Basketball*

Illinois at Pinnacle Bank Arena at 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 15

#### *Women's Basketball*

Penn State at Pinnacle Bank Arena at 7:30 p.m.

#### *Men's Basketball*

Wisconsin at Madison, Wis. at 8 p.m.

### Friday, Jan. 16

#### *Track & Field*

Holiday Inn Invitational at Devaney Center

#### *Women's Bowling*

Mid-Winter Classic at Jonesboro, Ark.

### Saturday, Jan. 17

#### *Women's Gymnastics*

Penn State at Devaney Center at 3 p.m.

#### *Track & Field*

Holiday Inn Invitational at Devaney Center

#### *Women's Bowling*

Mid-Winter Classic at Jonesboro, Ark.

#### *Men's Tennis*

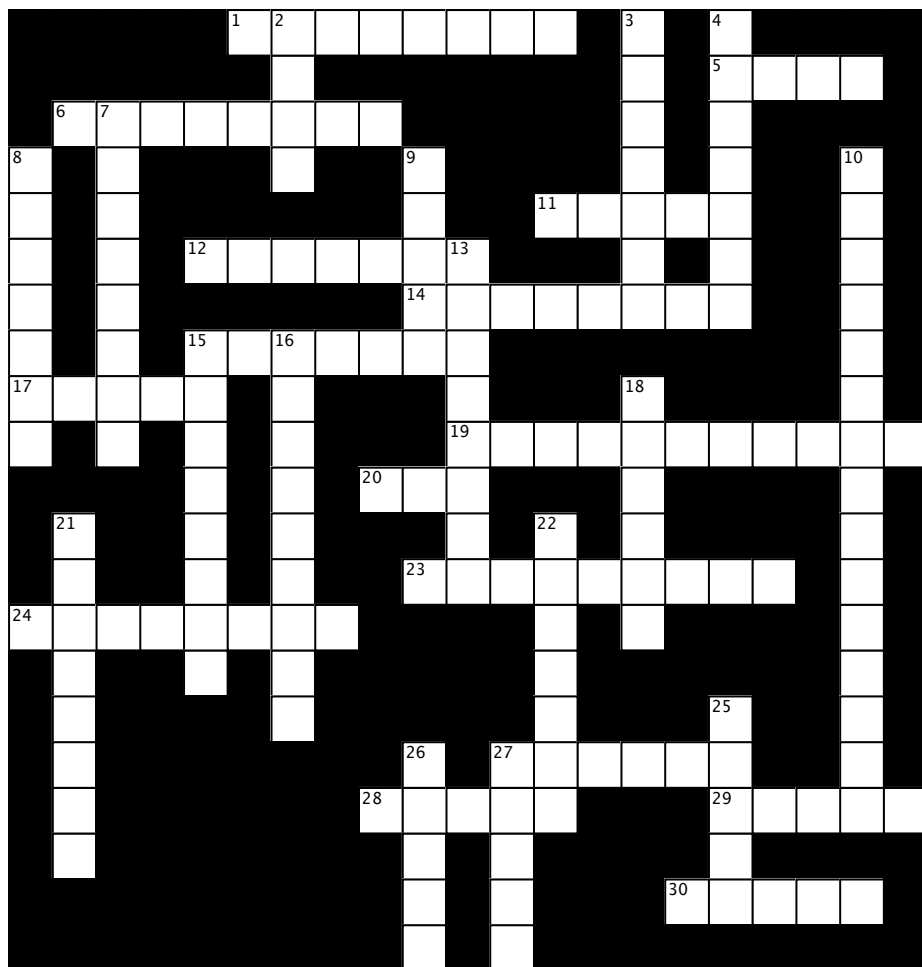
Oklahoma State at Stillwater, Okla. at 1:30 p.m.

#### *Men's Gymnastics*

Rocky Mountain Open at Colorado Springs, Colo. 7 p.m.



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## ACROSS

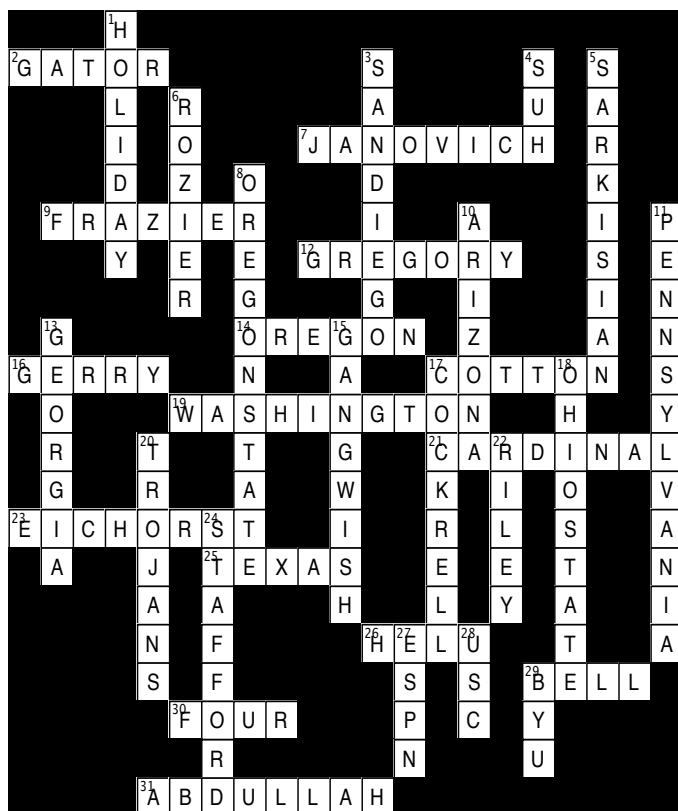
1. Guy Chamberlin Trophy winner
5. Greg McMullen's home state
6. 2014 most valuable player
11. 2015 non-conference road opponent
12. 1997 Lombardi Award winner
14. Blocked 2 punts in Holiday Bowl
15. 2014 leader in tackles for losses
17. Novak Trophy winner
19. Mike Riley's former school
20. Opponent in 2015 opener
23. Special teams MVP
24. 2014 leader in total tackles
27. NU's third Heisman Trophy winner
28. Defensive back who shared defensive MVP honors
29. New head coach
30. Lineman who caught pass that was later disallowed in Holiday Bowl

## DOWN

2. Set career record for receiving yards
3. Mike Riley's alma mater
4. Lineman who shared defensive MVP honors
7. Leading tackler in Holiday Bowl
8. 2014 leader in sacks
9. Ex-Husker kicker now with New York Giants
10. Bo Pelini's new school
13. Malik Collins' home state
15. Team Mike Riley coached in NFL
16. New offensive coordinator
18. Cletus Fischer Native Son Award winner
21. Lifter of the Year
22. Defensive lineman leaving early for NFL
25. Number of Tommy Armstrong touchdown passes in Holiday Bowl
26. 2014 leader in interceptions
27. Running back who missed Holiday Bowl with injury



## JANUARY 2015 CROSSWORD SOLUTION





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